



National monument advisory panel new flashpoint in debate

By **BRADY McCOMBS**
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A newly unveiled advisory committee that will help make management decisions for a downsized national monument in southern Utah has become the latest flashpoint in a long-running debate over lands considered sacred to Native Americans as monument supporters cry foul about being left off the panel.

The selections for the 15-person Bears Ears National Monument panel posted online Friday by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management reveal a few people who seem to strike a middle ground, but no-

body who was an outspoken proponent of the monument created by President Barack Obama in December 2016 to help preserve ancient cliff dwellings and an estimated 100,000 archaeological sites. In contrast, the committee includes several people who were critics of Obama's designation and cheered President Donald Trump's December 2017 decision to scale it back by about 85 percent to make it a 315 square mile-monument (816 sq. kilometers) in a move Trump said was done to reverse federal overreach.



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This May 8, 2017, file photo, shows Arch Canyon within Bears Ears National Monument in Utah.

Associated Press



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Feds: Coast Guard officer targeted Supreme Court justices

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**

Associated Press

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) — A Coast Guard lieutenant accused of stockpiling guns and compiling a hit list of prominent Democrats and network TV journalists looked at other targets: two Supreme Court justices and two executives of social media companies, according to federal prosecutors.

Those new allegations are contained in a court filing Tuesday in which prosecutors urge a magistrate judge to keep Christopher Hasson, 49, detained in custody pending trial on firearms and weapons charges.

The filing doesn't name the two justices and two company executives but says



This file image provided by the U.S. District Court in Maryland shows a photo of firearms and ammunition that was in the motion for detention pending trial in the case against Christopher Paul Hasson.

ney, Liz Oyer, wrote in a court filing last week that prosecutors recently disclosed that they don't expect to seek any additional charges. In a February court filing, prosecutors called Hasson a "domestic terrorist" and said he "intends to murder innocent civilians on a scale rarely seen in this country." They also said he is a self-described white nationalist who espoused extremist views for years and drafted an email in which he said he was "dreaming of a way to kill almost every last person on the earth." Hasson's internet search history "lays bare his views on race, which in turn inform his criminal conduct," Windom wrote.

Associated Press

Hasson searched online for their home addresses in March 2018, within minutes before and after searching firearm sales websites.

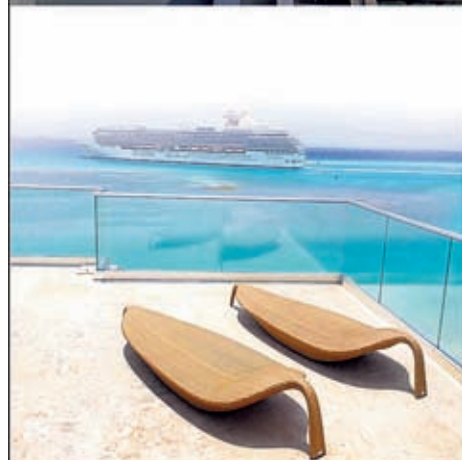
"The defendant conducted an internet search for 'are supreme court justices protected' approximately two weeks prior to searching for the home addresses of the two Supreme Court justices," Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Windom wrote in a footnote.

Hasson, who is due back in court Thursday for a detention hearing, is renewing his request to be released from custody while awaiting trial. A lawyer who represented Hasson at a Feb. 21 detention hearing accused prosecutors of making inflammatory accusations against Hasson without providing evidence to back them up.

Prosecutors haven't charged him with any terrorism-related offenses since his Feb. 15 arrest and subsequent indictment in Maryland. Hasson's attorney

In November 2017, according to the prosecutor, Hasson searched for "please god let there be a race war." And the defendant did an internet search for guns with a search term that used a racial slur for blacks in March 2018 before visiting firearm sales websites. Prosecutors have said Hasson appeared to be planning attacks inspired by the manifesto of Anders Behring Breivik, the Norwegian right-wing extremist who killed 77 people in a 2011 bomb-and-shooting rampage. Windom said "it cannot go unnoticed" that the terrorist who perpetrated the deadly New Zealand mosque attacks in March also was a "devotee" of Breivik.

In 2017, Hasson sent himself a draft letter he had written to a neo-Nazi leader and "identified himself as a White Nationalist for over 30 years and advocated for 'focused violence' in order to establish a white homeland," prosecutors said. □



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National monument advisory panel new flashpoint in debate

Continued from Front

They include San Juan County Commissioner Bruce Adams, ranchers Zeb Dalton and Gail Johnson, resident Jami Bayles and the two people selected for tribal spots on the committee: Ryan Benally and Alfred Ben. They are the only Native Americans on the committee.

Many monument supporters applied but weren't chosen, said Josh Ewing, executive director of the Friends of Cedar Mesa environmental group, and Gavin Noyes, executive director of Utah Dine Bikeyah, a tribal group that pushed for Obama's designation. "Many of the people seem to be involved for political purposes, and not their expertise," Ewing said.

Bureau of Land Management spokeswoman Kimberly Finch said in a statement that the committee members were chosen by the Department of the Interior after a careful review of a pool of 58 applications to "reflect a wide variety expertise, experiences, and interests regarding public land management and the resources within the Bears Ears National Monument." Each spot was earmarked for a certain group, such as paleontology, private landowners, cattle grazing, recreation, conservation and archaeology.

The members were given one, two and three year-terms to stagger when they will be replaced. The committee is expected to meet for the first time this summer.

Several committee members defended the selections, while making clear they aren't responsible for overall composition.

The conservation representative, Miles Moretti, CEO of the Mule Deer Foundation, said he wants to help find areas of consensus about lands he grew to love while he spent countless hours in the 1980s horseback riding doing wildlife surveys for the Utah Division of Wildlife. "I'm not coming with an agenda," Moretti said.

Ben, a vice president for the Aneth Chapter of the Navajo Nation, called it an honor to be on the panel and speak for his ancestors. He was among Native Americans who opposed the monument designation because he felt it would add unnecessary restrictions on sacred lands.

"I'm a community leader, and I know how the grassroots people think," Ben said.

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition that advocated for the monument didn't nominate anyone for the two tribal spots as part of its continued protest of the downsizing of the monument, coalition co-chair Carleton Bowekaty said. They have repeatedly called for the BLM to halt the planning process because of their pending lawsuits challenging the legality of Trump's decision.

Ben said the coalition has no place on this new advisory committee because they already have their own advisory panel.

That separate six-person commission was created

by Obama and kept by Trump, who revised it to include a spot for a county commissioner from San Juan County, Utah. The coalition—which includes the Hopi, Ute Indian, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni tribes and Navajo Nation—is not participating in the commission as part of its protest of the shrinkage. Adams, the county commissioner, said he has a hard time empathizing about the lack of tribal representation on the new panel because the coalition didn't nominate anyone. □



In this Dec. 4, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump signs the hat of Bruce Adams, chairman of the San Juan County Commission, after signing a proclamation to shrink the size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

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Former DHS head took up cyber despite White House aversion

By COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top White House official told Kirstjen Nielsen, then Homeland Security secretary, not to bring up election security with President Donald Trump, steering her away from discussing a critical national security threat with a president who bristles at suggestions that Russian interference contributed to his 2016 victory, according to two people familiar with the matter.

One official said the guidance from acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney wasn't related to the sensitivity of



In this April 10, 2019, file photo, outgoing Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen speaks at the dedication ceremony at the Homeland Security headquarters Center Building at the old St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington.

Associated Press

the election interference issue, but to keep the White House meetings concentrated on border security, the most visible part of Nielsen's sprawling portfolio and the top item on Trump's political agenda. But it suggests a lack of White House focus on preventing cyberattacks, which Nielsen described during her tenure as a bigger terrorism threat to the United States than planes or bombs. The potential for foreign cyberattacks to shape U.S. elections has been in the spotlight as special counsel Robert Mueller's report outlined efforts made by Russia to steal thousands of emails and internal documents from the Democratic Party and the Clinton campaign in 2016.

Despite the lack of White House coordination, Nielsen continued to work on election and cybersecurity with other administration officials, according to people familiar with the matter. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss private meetings.

The New York Times was the first to report that Nielsen had been told not to talk about the topic.

Mulvaney said in a statement he did not recall any meetings in which he told Nielsen not to bring up election security, and stressed the topic was very important. Trump signed an executive order last fall authorizing sanctions against foreigners who meddle in U.S. elections and requested \$17.6 billion for federal cybersecurity efforts next year in his budget. Mulvaney added that federal, state and local governments are now sharing in-

telligence and federal authorities are conducting security breach training drills. "The Trump administration will not tolerate foreign interference in our elections, and we've already taken many steps to prevent it in the future," he said.

Still, Trump and his aides have said Russia's 2016 interference was exaggerated. Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser, on Tuesday during an interview at the Time 100 Summit in New York minimized Russia's involvement by describing it as "buying some Facebook ads to try to sow dissent."

"But I think the investigations, and all of the speculation that's happened for the last two years, has had a much harsher impact on our democracy than a couple of Facebook ads," he said.

Nielsen resigned April 7 after a rocky 16-month tenure and amid a staff shake-up at her department orchestrated by the White House frustrated by the surging number of Central American migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico. Trump named as acting secretary Kevin McAleenan, the head of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, who has little cyber experience. He has since attended meetings on cybersecurity and is working to get up to speed on the topic, aides said.

Nielsen, in meetings with Trump, would attempt to explain to the president that her department was responsible for much more than immigration, according to two people familiar with the matter. But Trump's staff, dealing with a president with a short attention span and a focus on border security, would push her to stay on topic. □

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Illinois boy found buried in shallow grave; parents charged



In this April 24, 2019 is a booking photo provided by the Crystal Lake Police Department of Andrew Freund Sr, who along with his wife Joann Cunningham, have been charged with murder and other charges in the death of their missing son Andrew "AJ" Freund.

Associated Press

CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill. (AP) — Authorities searching for a missing 5-year-old Illinois boy who had lived in deplorable conditions dug up his body Wednesday and charged his parents with murder, sadly declaring that the youngster would "no longer have to suffer." The body, believed to be that of Andrew "AJ" Freund, was covered in plastic and buried in a shallow grave in a rural area of Woodstock in McHenry County, Crystal Lake police Chief James Black said.

Black said investigators went to the site after they interviewed the boy's parents overnight and presented them with cell-phone evidence. Woodstock is about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of Chicago and a few miles from the family's home in Crystal Lake. "This is not the outcome that we want to talk about ... but it is the unfortunate result," said Jeffrey Sallet, who runs the FBI in northern Illinois.

The parents, Andrew Freund Sr. and JoAnn Cunningham, each face charges of first-degree murder and other crimes. An email seeking comment was sent to Cunningham's lawyer. It wasn't immediately known if Freund has a lawyer.

The couple reported AJ

missing last Thursday, telling officers they had last seen him at bedtime the previous night. Freund told a dispatcher that they'd checked "closets, the basement, the garage, everywhere," but investigators quickly knocked down the possibility of a kidnapping.

Speaking to reporters, Black had a message for AJ's relatives: "It is my hope that you may have some solace in knowing that AJ is no longer suffering and his killers have been brought to justice."

Crystal Lake police had visited the house over the years, according to records released by the department. One report described the home as littered with dog feces and urine, including a child's bedroom where the "smell of feces was overwhelming." Another report said the house was "cluttered, dirty and in disrepair," and sometimes without electricity.

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, known as DCFS, had contact with the family since AJ was born with opiates in his body in 2013. The Northwest Herald said he was in foster care for two years before being returned to his parents. A younger brother was removed from the home last



In this April 24, 2019 booking photo provided by the Crystal Lake Police Department of Joann Cunningham who along with her husband Andrew Freund Sr. have been charged with murder and other charges in the death of their missing son Andrew "AJ" Freund.

Associated Press

week. Black said the cause of AJ's death remains under investigation. Police removed several items from the home, including a shovel, mattress, paper bags and a plastic storage tub.

"We know you are at peace playing in heaven's playground and are happy you no longer have to suffer," the police chief said in a public message intended for the boy.

DCFS acting director Marc Smith said AJ's death was "heartbreaking."

"The department is committed to conducting a comprehensive review of the entirety of our work with Andrew's family to understand our shortcomings

and to be fully transparent with the public on any steps we are taking to address the issues," Smith said in a written statement.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker in March ordered an independent review of DCFS after the deaths of a 2-year-old girl in Decatur and a 2-year-old boy in Chicago. Child welfare workers had contacts with both families.

State Sen. Julie Morrison, a Deerfield Democrat, immediately called for "an independent, comprehensive audit of the DCFS hotline."

"As with many other deaths, it seems the system designed to protect Illinois' children did not work in AJ Freund's case," Morrison said in a statement. □

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Attorney General Gurbir Grewal announces arrests of adults who officials say used social media messaging and dating apps in an attempt to lure children, during a news conference at Bergen County Prosecutor's Office in Hackensack, N.J., Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

Associated Press

Cop, teacher, others accused of trying to lure teens for sex

HACKENSACK, N.J. (AP) — Authorities have arrested a police officer, a high school teacher, a minister and 13 others in a sting New Jersey officials said Wednesday was aimed at men who tried to set up sexual encounters with people they thought were teenage boys and girls. The arrests were made as part of "Operation Home Alone," which targeted people who officials say used social media messaging and dating apps in an attempt to lure children.

New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said most of the defendants were arrested when they arrived at a residence in Bergen County, where they expected to find the victim home alone. The arrests were made from April 11-15.

Despite the undercover officers identifying themselves as 14- and 15-year-olds, authorities say the men still engaged in conversations about sex and arranged to meet up with them.

"The 16 men we arrested allegedly used social media to stalk victims they believed were vulnerable children who could be sexually exploited," Grewal said. "Parents need to know that the profiles of underage girls and boys we posted on social media to catch these offenders could easily have been profiles of their own children."

He added: "Our message to parents with 'Operation Home Alone' is be on guard. Our message to child predators is law enforcement is working overtime to find you and arrest you." Besides the police officer from New Jersey, the New York City teacher, and a traveling minister, the defendants also include a dental hygienist, a barber-shop owner and drivers for rideshare companies.

The defendants face charges including luring and attempted sexual assault. Two of the men are also charged with having child pornography on their electronic devices, including one who allegedly had more than 13,000 files of suspected child porn on his phone and a second who is already facing sentencing on a prior child porn charge.

The investigation was part of the New Jersey Regional Internet Crimes Against Children task force, which conducted a similar sting last September, "Operation Open House," leading to the arrest of 24 men. □



In this April 5, 2019, file photo, Parkland school suspect Nikolas Cruz listens during a hearing at the Broward Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

Public defender asks to drop Florida school massacre suspect

By **TERRY SPENCER**

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)

— The public defenders for the Parkland school massacre defendant unexpectedly asked to withdraw from the case Wednesday, saying the 20-year-old man will soon inherit nearly a half-million dollars and no longer qualify for free legal representation.

The Broward County Public Defender's Office filed the unexpected notice late Wednesday, saying Nikolas Cruz is set to receive more than \$432,000 shortly from his late mother's life insurance policy. Under state law, the public defender can only represent defendants who cannot afford private attorneys.

Cruz is charged with 17 counts of first-degree murder and 17 counts of attempted murder arising from the Feb. 14, 2017, shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The former Stoneman Douglas student faces a possible death sentence.

Public Defender Howard Finkelstein and his chief assistant, Gordon Weekes, said their office learned about the insurance policy this week. At a court hearing last year, their office had said the amount was likely to be about \$30,000, too little to hire a private at-

torney. "By statute, we can only represent the poor and indigent," Weekes told The Associated Press by phone Wednesday. "We are asking to withdraw from the case because the defendant is no longer poor."

But Cruz may not get the money. It is likely that the victims' families who are suing Cruz will claim the money should go to them and judges will have to determine who ultimately receives it. Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer, who is presiding over the criminal case, has not set a hearing on the public defenders' withdrawal motion and she might require them to stay on until that is settled.

David Brill, an attorney representing the father of victim Meadow Pollack in a lawsuit against Cruz and others, said Wednesday that he is exploring his options. Other attorneys representing families and victims did not immediately respond to emails seeking their comments.

Cruz has said that he would prefer any money he received from his mother's estate or insurance go to the victims and their families. Lynda Cruz died of pneumonia in November 2017, three months before the shooting, leaving behind Cruz and his younger brother, Zachary. Their fa-

ther died when they were young, not long after they were adopted.

The mother had a tumultuous relationship with her sons, calling police dozens of times over the years to say they had been verbally abusive or had damaged her property. Zachary and other family members have said Nikolas Cruz sometimes hit his mother and once threatened her with a gun, but she never reported that. She went with him to buy a gun shortly after he turned 18, but with a caveat.

A gun store employee told investigators after the shooting that he had received a call from Linda Cruz the day after the 2017 purchase. She asked him not to release the gun to him after the three-day waiting period if she wasn't there. When he pressed her on why, she hesitated and then said he was young and she wanted him to be safe. Cruz's trial is scheduled to begin early next year. Finkelstein said it is too early to say whether this new development would delay the trial, "but it certainly won't speed it up." His office has estimated that more than a million documents have been generated in the case, which would have to be transferred to a new attorney. □

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Court wonders if it can rule on Manson follower's parole

By AMANDA LEE MYERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A California appeals court on Wednesday questioned whether it has jurisdiction to decide on parole for Charles Manson follower Leslie Van Houten or whether the issue becomes moot after the governor weighs in.

Van Houten's attorney told a three-judge panel of the 2nd District Court of Appeal that his client is remorseful and takes responsibility for her crimes. A state prosecutor said the 69-year-old has placed too much blame on Manson himself.

Van Houten was 19 when she and fellow members of Manson's cult stabbed Los Angeles grocer Leno LaBianca and his wife, Rosemary, to death in 1969. The killings took place a day after other so-called Manson family members killed actress Sharon Tate and four others in crimes that shocked the world.

Van Houten, who is serving a life sentence, was not involved in the other killings. The appeals judges are reviewing a lower court's ruling that denied Van Houten parole last year. Since then, a parole board recommended that she be freed, a decision undergoing a five-month review process before heading to Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The judges wondered whether they still would have jurisdiction to rule if Newsom denies Van Houten parole.

Van Houten's attorney, Rich Pfeiffer, told the judges they not only have jurisdiction but a duty to decide, adding that no elected



In this Sept. 6, 2017 file photo Leslie Van Houten reacts after hearing she is eligible for parole during a hearing at the California Institution for Women in Corona, Calif.

politician will ever agree to Van Houten's parole because of the infamy of the case.

"If the courts don't release Miss Van Houten, she's never going to be released," Pfeiffer said. "The courts are empowered to make difficult decisions, and sometimes unpopular decisions, to be able to enforce the law. That's what courts are there for. Otherwise it turns into mob rule."

Deputy Attorney General Jill VanderBorght said the issue should rest with whatever Newsom decides. She said Pfeiffer's argument that Van Houten is unlikely to get released without a court decision was irrelevant.

"We're only looking at this single instance of parole reversal," she said. "We don't have to think of tomorrow or ever or politics. In fact,

the court should not."

The judges gave Pfeiffer and VanderBorght five days to file arguments on the jurisdiction issue. The judges have three months to decide on Van Houten's parole.

A parole board has recommended that Van Houten be released three times since 2016, finding that she's no longer a threat to society. Former Gov. Jerry Brown blocked the first two recommendations, and the third is heading to Newsom. Courts in general can be reluctant to interfere in parole matters, said Samuel Pillsbury, a criminal law professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

"It is highly emotional," Pillsbury said. "The voters have decided the governor should have a veto on this, so the courts would prefer to let this process play out."

ma from that, and it makes it a very different kind of case from an elected official's point of view."

In denying Van Houten parole last year, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge William Ryan found that she would "pose an unreasonable risk of danger to society," citing the brutal nature of the crimes.

During one of her parole hearings, Van Houten said the killings were the start of what Manson believed was a coming race war that he dubbed "Helter Skelter," after a Beatles song, and that he had the group prepare to fight and learn to can food so they could go underground and live in a hole in the desert.

Van Houten said she was traveling up and down the California coast when acquaintances led her to Manson. She candidly described how she joined several other members of the group in killing the LaBiancas, carving up Leno LaBianca's body and smearing the couple's blood on the walls.

Manson died of natural causes in 2017 at a California hospital while serving a life sentence. □

Associated Press

If the decision comes down to the governor, Pillsbury agreed that Van Houten has an uphill battle.

"The Manson case is one of a kind," he said. "There's no other case like it in terms of the number of people in California who feel strongly about it, who've lived through it. The entire state and much of the nation still feel some degree of trauma from that, and it makes it a very different kind of case from an elected official's point of view."



UK begins search for new Bank of England governor

By PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British government on Wednesday started the process to appoint the successor to Mark Carney as governor of the Bank of England, and indicated it is willing to look abroad again to get the right person.

Carney, a Canadian who in July 2013 became the first foreigner to head the Bank of England, is stepping down at the end of January 2020.

Carney has already delayed his departure twice to deal with the aftermath of the country's 2016 vote to leave the European Union. The Treasury said his replacement should be announced in the autumn.

Treasury chief Philip Hammond told a committee of lawmakers that his preference is for Carney's replacement to serve the usual eight-year term. "Stability has a lot of value," he said.

Hammond said he was looking for a candidate who knows his or her way around international organizations, which will be important when Britain leaves the EU.

"It's very important that as



European Central Bank (ECB) President Mario Draghi, right speaks with Bank of England Governor Mark Carney as they attend the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) conference, at the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings in Washington, Saturday, April 13, 2019.

Associated Press

well as having someone who can do a first-class job at home we have someone who commands respect in the international arena," he added.

That suggests the search will not just be confined to the U.K.

Among the domestic figures mooted to replace Carney is Andrew Bailey, who heads the U.K.'s Financial Conduct Authority. Ac-

cording to the Ladbrokes betting agency, Bailey is favorite at 2 to 1 to get the job.

No woman has ever been governor of the Bank of England, which was founded in 1694 and which has faced criticism for its lack of gender diversity and the fact that female employees are paid almost 25 percent less than their male counterparts.

There's no shortage of potential female candidates for the top job. Minouche Shafik, a former rate-setter at the bank and currently director at the London School of Economics, is second-favorite at 5 to 1, according to Ladbrokes. Shriti Vadera, the chair of Santander's U.K. bank arm, is 8 to 1 and Sharon White, the chief executive of the communications regula-

tor, is another strong candidate with odds at 12 to 1.

Looking further afield, the names mooted include Raghuram Rajan, a former Bank of India governor who according to Ladbrokes is third favorite at 5 to 1. Former Fed Chair Janet Yellen has been identified as a potential successor at 20 to 1, while Christine Lagarde, the International Monetary Fund's boss, is an outsider at 50 to 1.

Hammond praised Carney for leading the Bank of England through a volatile period that saw Britain vote in 2016 to leave the EU.

Britain was due to leave the EU in March but the failure of Parliament to agree on a Brexit withdrawal deal means it has been delayed twice. Britain's departure date is now Oct. 31, though Brexit could happen sooner if Prime Minister Theresa May gets her deal approved. The departure date could also be extended again.

Hammond said Carney's "steady hand has helped steer the U.K. economy through a challenging period and we are now seeing stable, low inflation and the fastest wage growth in over a decade." □

New Zealand and France to call for an end to online terror

By NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand

(AP) — New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Wednesday that she and French President Emmanuel Macron will host a meeting in Paris next month seeking to eliminate acts of violent extremism and terrorism from being shown online.

Ardern said she and Macron will ask world leaders and chief executives of technology companies to agree to a pledge called the "Christchurch Call," named after the New Zealand city where dozens of people were killed in attacks on mosques last month.

Ardern didn't release any details of the pledge, saying they were still being



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern speaks to media at her electorate office in Auckland, Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

Associated Press

developed. She said she'd been talking with representatives from companies including Facebook, Twitter, Microsoft and Google along with world leaders and felt they could reach consensus by keeping the pledge tightly focused.

"This isn't about freedom of speech," Ardern said. "It's specifically focused on eradicating those extreme acts of terrorism online."

The man accused of fatally shooting 50 people in two Christchurch mosques on March 15 livestreamed the

attack on Facebook after mounting a camera on his helmet. The chilling 17-minute video was copied and viewed widely on the internet even as tech companies scrambled to remove it. Ardern said the shooter had used social media in an unprecedented way to promote an act of terrorism and hate. She said nobody would argue that a terrorist had the right to livestream the murder of 50 people.

"No tech company, just like no government, wishes to see violent extremism and terrorism online," Ardern said. "And so we have a starting point that is one of unity."

In an opinion piece in the Washington Post last month, Facebook founder and chief executive Mark Zuckerberg called for gov-

ernments and regulators to play a more active role from in policing the internet.

"As part of this, we have a responsibility to keep people safe on our services," Zuckerberg wrote. "That means deciding what counts as terrorist propaganda, hate speech and more. We continually review our policies with experts, but at our scale we'll always make mistakes and decisions that people disagree with."

Ardern said Macron had played a leadership role among the Group of Seven major economies in trying to eliminate online terrorism, and his role would complement her experience from the recent Christchurch attacks when they co-chair the May 15 meeting. □

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Australia political leaders use Chinese app to chase votes

By ROD McGUIRK

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Australia's prime minister and his political rival said on Wednesday they were not tailoring their political messages to suit Chinese censors as the politicians increasingly use Chinese social media to woo Chinese-speaking voters.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison and opposition leader Bill Shorten each have accounts with China's largest social media platform, WeChat, which they use to target the Chinese diaspora ahead of federal elections on May 18.

Critics argue that the Australian political leaders risk being kicked off the platform if they don't comply with Chinese censorship rules.

Morrison said his account has not been subjected to Chinese censorship used on social media.



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison speaks at a business breakfast in Darwin, Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

Associated Press

"We haven't experienced any such censorship," Morrison told reporters.

Bill Shorten, who leads the center-left Labor Party, was similarly unconcerned by the type of censorship that the Chinese Communist Party routinely exercises on Chinese social media.

"I'm not fussed at all," Shorten told reporters. "I do not feel censored by the

Chinese government."

WeChat was launched by Chinese giant Tencent in 2011 and the app, known in China as Weixin, has become essential for daily life in China.

Morrison's account was registered in January under the name of a Chinese citizen in Fujian province, and Shorten's account was registered to a Chinese citizen

in Shandong province, Australian Broadcasting Corp reported.

Morrison said his conservative Liberal Party was trying to transfer his account to Australia.

"The way you set up a WeChat account, because of where it's run, is you have to work through these overseas structures and we've been in the process now over the last week or so of seeking to repatriate how that's done," Morrison said. Shorten said he left his Labor Party to set up his account. The party said it was set up in early 2017 by an Australian resident who is employed by the party. It is jointly operated by Shorten's office and the party.

"Labor has never experienced any censorship of our communications on any social media platforms," a party statement said. "We do not tolerate any outside interference

that seeks to undermine our free and fair society."

Fergus Hanson, head of the International Cyber Policy Center at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, said politicians' use of Chinese social media in the Australian political debate created the possibility of censorship and self-censorship on subjects sensitive to China. "It's pretty outrageous that you're in a situation where an Australian politician in a full-blown democracy is being censored in what they can say by the Chinese government trying to speak to other Australians within Australia," Hanson said. "It's absolutely preposterous."

Hanson's own research estimated that there were 1.5 million active WeChat users in Australia including Chinese-speaking Australians, tourists and international students. Australia has a population of 25 million. □

Sudan military says 3 members of ruling council resign

By FAY ABUELGASIM

SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)

— Sudan's ruling military council said three of its members resigned Wednesday amid heightened tensions with the organizers of protests that toppled President Omar al-Bashir after three decades in power.

The announcement came after generals met with leaders of an opposition group that had suspended talks over the weekend while accusing the military



In this Tuesday, April 23, 2019, photo, Sudanese protesters crowd a train in the capital Khartoum.

Associated Press

of failing to make a clean break with al-Bashir's regime.

The Sudanese Professionals Association and its allies, which organized the four months of escalating demonstrations that led the military to remove al-Bashir from power April 11, returned to the talks a day before planned mass rallies.

The association had said before the meeting that it would announce its own transitional governing council Thursday, but

it was unclear if that plan had changed. A military spokesman, Lt. Gen. Shamseldin Kibashi, said after the meeting that Lt. Gen. Omar Zain al-Abdin, the council's chief negotiator, and two people on a council-affiliated political committee, submitted their resignations.

The Sudanese Professionals Association had said that Zain al-Abdin was the head of al-Bashir's party within the military and was "trying to bring back the deposed regime." □

UN: Pro-government forces kill more Afghans than insurgents

By KATHY GANNON

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

Afghan and international forces were responsible for more civilian deaths in the first three months of 2019 than the Taliban and other militants, a new U.N. report said Wednesday. It marks the first time in recent years that civilian deaths attributed to government forces and their allies exceeded those blamed on their enemies.

The statistics reflects what many say is a growing problem in Afghanistan's brutal war, in which civilians die not only in suicide bombings and insurgent attacks but also in the cross-fire as Afghan forces and international allies pursue militants.

The U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan reported Wednesday that 581 civilians were killed between Jan. 1 and March 31, with Afghan forces and their allies responsible for 305 of those deaths. The insurgents were responsible for wounding more civilians than the coalition forces, the report said.

Nearly half of the civilian deaths attributed to Afghan forces and their allies occurred during airstrikes, while some of the other civilians were killed during searches and raids of militant hideouts. U.S. forces carry out airstrikes when



United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) Human Rights Director Richard Bennett speaks during an interview with the Associated Press in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, April. 24, 2019.

called to assist Afghan forces. More than 50% of the civilians killed were women and children, said Richard Bennett, UNAMA's human rights director.

"These tactics have resulted in a high proportion of deaths of civilians," raising U.N. concerns, he said, referring to airstrikes and search operations.

"Every death, every injury is a tragedy for civilians," said Bennett. "This remains an intense conflict and there are way too many civilians being killed and injured by all parties."

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani earlier this year

urged his ground forces to take greater care to protect civilian lives while conducting search operations. The resurgent Taliban, who now control nearly half the country, have also asked their fighters to avoid civilian casualties in their near-daily attacks on government forces.

U.S. military spokesman Col. Dave Butler said a cease-fire would be the "best way to end the suffering of non-combatants."

But the Taliban have refused to negotiate directly with Ghani's government, even as they hold talks with a U.S. peace envoy. Talks

that were to start last week in Qatar with the Taliban and an array of prominent Afghans, including government officials and opposition representatives, were scuttled after a falling-out between the two sides over who should attend.

Butler said U.S. forces are also concerned over the civilian deaths.

"We hold ourselves to the highest standards of accuracy and accountability. We strive for precision in all of our operations," he told The Associated Press.

Last year's U.N. report was the first to show a dramatic hike in civilian deaths by

pro-government forces, including more than 1,000 civilian casualties from airstrikes, the highest since the U.N. began keeping track 10 years ago.

In September, Masih Rahman's family of 12 — his wife, four daughters, three sons and four nephews — were killed when a bomb flattened their home in the Taliban-controlled Mullah Hafiz village in central Maidan Wardak province.

"It's not just my family, there are dozens of families just like mine who have been lost in bombings," Rahman told The Associated Press this week. "The people have no power. ... We are the ones who are dying."

Rahman, who was working in Iran at the time of the airstrike, blamed both pro-government forces and the Taliban, saying a Taliban-run prison was located just 400 meters (yards) from his home.

He has since sought redress from the U.N. and has also taken his case to Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission, which put out its own report on civilian casualties on Tuesday. The commission said 11,212 civilians were killed or wounded between March 31, 2018, and March 31 of this year. In just the last 10 years of Afghanistan's 17-year war, the commission said 75,316 Afghan civilians had died. □

Myanmar lawmaker: 50 believed dead in mudslide at jade mine

Associated Press

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP) —

More than 50 people are believed to have died in a mudslide at a jade mining site in northern Myanmar, a lawmaker representing the area said Tuesday.

Tin Soe said three bodies have been recovered and 54 people remain missing after the accident Monday night in the Hpakant area of Kachin state.

"The rescue process will not be easy as they're under the mud, not just ordinary soil. It is really difficult to get the bodies back," he said. The mud flowed down on the workers from a col-



People stand atop a ridge overlooking the scene of a mudslide at a jade gemstone mining site Tuesday, April 23, 2019, in Hpakant area of Kachin state, northern Myanmar.

Associated Press

lapsed reservoir made from a disused mining pit to contain materials discarded from the mining process.

The landscape in the area is extremely uneven, with mountains of debris and valleys formed from abandoned mines. The mud covered not only the workers but also mining equipment, including bulldozers and backhoes, from the Myanmar Thuya Co. and 9 Dragons Co. Tin Soe said the missing were buried under mud up to 100 feet (30 meters) deep. "There is no machine to pump out the mud," he said by phone. "It could cost millions of dol-

lars." Local officials did not answer phone calls seeking comment on the accident. Myanmar's Information Ministry said on its Facebook page that rescue operations have been carried out since Tuesday morning by local authorities together with social welfare organizations. A similar accident involving the release of a massive amount of mud occurred in March, damaging some equipment but causing no deaths.

Accidents involving heavy casualties in the jade mining area are not rare, but usually have a different cause. □



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Japan apologizes to forcibly sterilized people, vows redress

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's government apologized Wednesday to tens of thousands of people who were forcibly sterilized under a now-defunct Eugenics Protection Law which was designed to "prevent the birth of poor-quality descendants," and promised to pay them compensation. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga offered "sincere remorse and a heartfelt apology" to the victims. It came after the parliament earlier Wednesday enacted legislation to provide redress, including 3.2 million yen (\$28,600) in compensation for each victim.

An estimated 25,000 people were sterilized without consent under the 1948 Eugenics Protection Law, which remained in place until 1996. The law allowed doctors to sterilize people with disabilities. It was quietly renamed the Maternity Protection Law in 1996, when the discriminatory



This general view shows a plenary session of upper house house after Eugenics Protection Law was passed in parliament in Tokyo Wednesday, April 25 2019.

condition was removed. The redress legislation acknowledges that many people were forced to have operations to remove their reproductive organs or were given radiation treatment to be sterilized, causing them tremendous mental and physical pain.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in a statement, said the problem should never be repeated. "We will do all we can to achieve a society where no one is discriminated against, whether they have illnesses or handicaps, and live together while respecting each oth-

er's personality and individuality," he said. The government had until recently maintained that the sterilizations were legal at the time. The apology and the redress law follow a series of lawsuits by victims who have come forward re-

cently after breaking decades of silence. That prompted lawmakers from both ruling and opposition parties to draft a compensation package to make amends.

The plaintiffs are seeking about 30 million yen each (\$268,000) in legal actions that are spreading around the country, saying the government's implementation of the law violated the victims' right to self-determination, reproductive health and equality. They say the government redress measures are too small.

"Looking back at what we have suffered as victims, I don't think what's in the law is sufficient," said a 76-year-old plaintiff in Tokyo who uses the pseudonym Saburo Kita. "I'd rather want my life back." Kita said he was sterilized in 1957 at age 14 when he lived in an orphanage. He broke the secret to his wife just before she died several years ago, saying he regretted she couldn't have children because of him. □

Russia offers Ukrainians in conflict zones quick citizenship

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree Wednesday to expedite citizenship applications from Ukrainians who live in parts of Ukraine held by Russia-backed separatists, a move that could hold back a peace process to end years of bloodshed.

The decree, which was published on the Kremlin's website, states that people living in the parts of Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions that are under separatist control will have their applications



A Ukrainian serviceman guards a position near the front line as the conflict continues, in Mariinka, Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine, Saturday, April 20, 2019.

considered in less than three months. If they are granted Russian citizenship, they would have to swear

allegiance to Russia. Putin's decision could trigger a major escalation of the war that started in eastern Ukraine in 2014 and shatter hopes for peace in the area — also known as Donbass — that were renewed with the election of a new Ukrainian president. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin called Putin's decree "a new stage of the occupation of Donbass." "I'm calling on Ukrainian citizens on the Russia-occupied territories to refuse Russian passports," Klimkin wrote on Twitter. Commenting on the citizenship decree at a meet-

ing with lawmakers in St. Petersburg, Putin said his order was not intended to "create problems for the new Ukrainian administration." He said he signed the decree for "humanitarian" reasons, claiming people in Donetsk and Luhansk are suffering and "have no civil rights left."

Putin did not explain why he did not offer expedited citizenship for Donbass residents earlier despite insistent calls from Russian nationalists. The Kremlin did not act on the calls, even during the worst fighting in a conflict that has claimed more than 15,000 lives. □

In Mexico, migrants turn to 'The Beast' after highway raids

By **MARK STEVENSON**

SONIA PEREZ D.

Associated Press

IXTEPEC, Mexico (AP) — The train known as "The Beast" is once again rumbling through the night loaded with people headed toward the U.S. border after a raid on a migrant caravan threatened to end the practice of massive highway marches through Mexico.

A long freight train loaded with about 300 to 400 migrants pulled out of the southern city of Ixtepec on Tuesday. They sat atop rattling boxcars and clung precariously to ladders alongside the clanking couplings. Most were young men, along with a few dozen women and children. Mothers clambered up the railings clutching their infants. Migrants displayed a Honduran flag from atop the train.

The train known in Spanish as "La Bestia," which runs from the southern border state of Chiapas into neighboring Oaxaca and north into Gulf coast state Veracruz, carried migrants north for decades, despite its notorious dangers: People died or lost limbs falling from the train. Mexican authorities started raiding the trains to pull migrants off in mid-2014 and the number of Central Americans aboard the train fell to a smattering.

But about a week ago, a longtime migrant rights activist, the Rev. Alejandro Solalinde, noticed a change: Large numbers of migrants started getting off the train in Ixtepec, the Oaxaca town where his Brothers on the Road shelter is located. Many had waited weeks for Mexican visas that never materialized, and simply decided to head north without papers. Others were part of a 3,000-person migrant caravan that was broken up in a raid Monday by federal police and immigration agents on a highway east of Ixtepec.

With dozens of police and immigration checkpoints dotting the highways, many migrants now view the train as a safer, albeit

still risky, way to reach the U.S. border.

"They're riding the train again, that's a fact," said

Truckers, warned by the government that they could face fines, no longer give rides to the migrants as

mediately have to switch from visibility to invisibility, and that can make them more vulnerable and more

his companions could do nothing to help the man; the train was moving too fast to jump off. "He's still back there somewhere," Funes said. But he remains undeterred. "We're going to rely on the train, despite everything we know that can happen to us."

Gomez and many others were also driven to desperation by another change in Mexican policy. Whereas in late 2018 and early 2019 authorities were handing out humanitarian visas and processing asylum requests, they have now largely stopped doing so, instead making migrants wait weeks in the southern town of Mapastepec for visas that never seem to come. Gomez said "They lied to us, they made us spend a month at the shelter, they told us they were going to give up papers but they never did."

Enrique Valiente, a 19-year-old roofer from El Salvador who came to the U.S. at 3, spent much of his life in Nevada and was deported last May after a traffic stop. He said Mexico had flatly refused to consider him for asylum. He is afraid to return to his native country — which he knows little about and where he has almost no remaining relatives — because he isn't familiar with complex rules of getting along with street gangs in El Salvador, and could fall afoul of them.

He doesn't even plan to sneak back into the United States; his dream is to use his perfect English to find work at a call center in the border city of Tijuana. But he can't do that without papers. The train was popular for years, back when "caravan" just meant small Holy Week demonstrations by migrants on the Guatemala-Mexico border. Now, the train is popular once again. Solalinde compared it to trying to squeeze off a leaky garden hose: Whenever Mexican authorities crack down, the migrants find an alternate route.

"Nobody is ever going to be able to stop the flow of migration," Solalinde said. □



Central American migrants ride atop a freight train during their journey toward the U.S.-Mexico border, in Ixtepec, Oaxaca State, Mexico, Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

Associated Press

Solalinde, who shelter now houses about 300 train-riding migrants. "It's going to go back to the way it was, the (Mexican) government doesn't want them to be seen. If the migrants move quietly like a stream of little ants, they'll allow them to, but they are not going to allow them to move through Mexico publicly or massively" as they did with the large caravans that began in October. In fact, Solalinde predicts "they're not going to allow caravans anymore."

In Monday's raid, federal police and agents detained 371 people, wrestling men, women and children into patrol trucks and vans and hauling them off, presumably to begin deportation proceedings. Many other migrants abandoned the road and fled into the surrounding countryside.

The decision to turn to "The Beast" derives from several reasons, all related to the crackdown.

With throngs of police pickups and small immigration vans parked at checkpoints up and down the narrow waist of southern Mexico, hitchhiking, taking buses or walking is no longer an op-

tion. Migrants are pulled off buses, and rounded up off the sides of highways when they stop to rest.

"Now we're going by train because we can't go on buses, because they won't let us through," said Rudi Margarita Montoya, the wife of a Honduran carpenter, who was perched atop a freight car with her young son and daughter and her husband.

Abdel Camargo, a specialist on migration at the College of the Southern Border, said the Mexican government, under pressure from Washington, appears to be employing a strategy of containing migrants at certain points, dividing large groups, deporting people in certain circumstances and wearing migrants down with long waits for work visas.

Mexican authorities are "holding them back at specific points to turn the south of the country into a retaining wall," Camargo said. And while migrants have resorted to caravans seeking safety in numbers, he said that following Monday's raid many migrants will surely change their strategies: "They will im-

at risk." It's not as if the migrants think the train is safe; they acknowledge the dangers of riding through the darkness perched high atop the freight cars. Just like increased U.S. border protection, Mexico's increased enforcement efforts push migrants into using more dangerous means of travel.

Carlos Marroquín, a mechanic from El Salvador, and his wife Brenda Gómez, 24, clambered onto the train with their son, 5 and daughter, 10. Marroquin ticked off the dangers facing them on the rails: "There are drug traffickers, gangs, thieves, but we're putting everything into this, because it means everything."

"If we can't walk, if we can't take the bus, we'll go on the train," Marroquin said.

Denis Funes, a migrant from central Honduras whose sun-beaten skin and leathery hands betray his past as a farmworker, says he saw a fellow Honduran knocked off the train the previous night by a low-hanging branch that caught the man in the face and sent him hurtling to the tracks below. Funes and

LOCAL



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Student Affairs

By Louedska Maduro

Reflection & Experience

COLUMBIA, S.C. — It is official! This is the last week of classes. I cannot believe it. As soon as classes end, finals week will start. Which means that I will be spending endless hours in the library studying, accompanied by other students and I will be needing plenty of coffee to get through the long week of finals. It has been an overall great experience being an exchange student for the spring semester at the University of South Carolina.

The time has come for me to return back to the beautiful island of Aruba. It is a bittersweet feeling. I remember writing my first article for Aruba Today, where I elaborated on how my first week went and the things that I look forward to doing in Columbia. Now, here I am, writing about going back home in less than two weeks.

I really enjoyed my time here in Columbia. Over these past few months, I have learned a lot. Many things that will surely contribute to the development of my professional and personal life as well. However, I have to admit, that I do miss my home. Moreover, I would definitely like to see and spend time with my family and friends again. This exchange semester abroad experience made me see a lot of things differently and also made me appreciate the island of Aruba way more. The experience gave me somewhat of a perspective of how it feels



to be a student at such a large university in the United States. I use the word somewhat, because I believe that four months does not specifically give you the "all time" experience that everyone talks about. This is, because right after that you are starting to get accustomed to the place, you have to prepare to leave and go back home. However, this can actually be seen as a good thing too. A benefit of an exchange semester is, that it does not tie you in the case of the United States, to a four-year long stay. It gives an exchange student the idea, during their couple of months there, as to how everything works. If a student enjoyed the experience, they can always return back there to pursue another degree or even a career.

On a personal note, the exchange semester abroad experience made me understand certain things about myself a little bit more. The experience helped me be more aware of

some things that I should work on to improve myself and made me realize some strengths and skills about myself that I did not even know I had before.

Another thing that I am really grateful for, is all the opportunities where I got to travel and visit new places during this exchange semester. I managed to see a lot of new places and try a lot of different and new foods. Which is something that I really enjoy doing. I am pretty sure that I not would have done all these trips if I decided to stay back home in Aruba. Last week, I got the opportunity to see one of my favorite artists live, which is the band of SOJA. I have been listening to SOJA since I was 16 years old. When I saw their tour dates online, I could not believe that they were coming to Columbia to perform. I immediately purchased the tickets and went to the concert with some friends. SOJA was amazing live and we had a great time.

While on the topic of traveling, Last weekend I decided to go to Savannah with the International Student Services. Since this was one of the last few trips that the International Student Services will be doing, I definitely did not want to miss out. We decided to walk in the downtown area and then go grab a bite. While we were walking, we started to notice how cold and windy it was getting, so we ended up going to this really nice café to get some hot chocolate and tea. I had the most delicious tea, called Savannah Fog. We also visited the beach, however, I believe that it does not even come in comparison with the beaches back home.

There is still one trip left, which is the Atlanta trip and I am still supposed to go to Myrtle Beach this upcoming week. Therefore, I have to make sure to finish all my school work and make sure to start packing before going on these trips. □



Louedska Maduro, 25 years old, is currently a third-year student at the University of Aruba in the program of Organization, Governance and Management. Louedska takes part in an exchange abroad during the spring semester. She is now attending the University of South Carolina for the upcoming four months and will take this experience as her inspiration for her column Student Affairs. The column will be in the newspaper every other Thursday.

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King's Day celebration at Centro Famia Piedra Plat



PIEDRA PLAT — Foundation Centro Famia Piedra Plat will be celebrating King's Day in a very unusual way. They are offering the young ones and any other establishment the possibility to make use of a table to sell their products. The products should be things that are sold at flea markets such as toys, organic products and foods and desserts, etc.

The day will be filled with lots of activities for the whole family. It will start with a Dutch/Aruban breakfast. During the entire day kids can do crafting, participate at different games and win

prizes. There will also an exhibition of paintings of Rhoda Berg. You can also take some funny pictures at the photo booth decorated in the King's Day theme. In the meantime, while your children are busy playing, pass by the Health and Care center and treat yourself to a manicure & pedicure.

Enjoy a great variety of delicious soup during the 'Soup festival' at lunch. Try the seafood soup which comes highly recommended. A Snack Shop Bar will be filled with different sweets, food & beverages.

Centro Famia Piedra Plat is located at Piedra



Plat 50, next to the Franklin Bareno Sport Complex. For more information call 5673019 or send an email to centrofamiapp@gmail.com.

About Centro FamiaPiedra Plat

Foundation Centro Famia Piedra Plat, translated Family Center of Piedra Plat is a safe haven for children and adults from the neighborhood, but from any part of Aruba as well. On a plot of barely 200 square meter in the neighborhood of Piedra Plat you will find a warm, family-oriented foundation offering four different activity centers for children and adults. □

Accolades for Maira Ridderstaat, Jolanda Roza, Adela Maduro and Gloria Koolman Playa Linda marks the thirty-year long careers of its exceptional associates



ORANJESTAD – Playa Linda Beach Resort is proud to recognize Maira Ridderstaat, Jolanda Roza, Adela Orman Maduro and Florencia “Gloria” Koolman, who marked 30 years of service all within the same four-month period. Recent celebrations provided

proper recognition to these exception women who have contributed so much in their three-decade-long career with the Playa Linda Beach Resort.

As well-respected members of the Housekeeping Department, sincere

expressions of congratulations and appreciation were made during events marking their work anniversaries. They each started their career at the Playa Linda, with Maira, Jolanda and Gloria having moved into leadership positions as supervisors, and with all four

of the honorees displaying extraordinary dedication.

Executive Housekeeper Ingrid Todd, who is also the most senior member of the staff and who herself has been working with the resort for over 35 years, ensured the sense of family that pervades the Playa Linda was also a factor in individual celebrations. Although Adela was out from work on her work anniversary, Playa Linda brought a surprise celebration in the form of a Mariachi band directly to her home. Gloria and Jolanda enjoyed an equally festive celebration in the Playa Linda Members Lounge, with the party including members of her family.

“Playa Linda’s philosophy has always been to create a ‘home away from home’ environment both for members and guests as well as for employees. In house-



keeping, we are not only a team, but also a family, and we depend on each other. I am particularly happy to recognize Maira, Jolanda, Adela and Gloria for their achievements and show appreciation for their long years of service,” remarked Executive Housekeeper Ingrid Todd. □



King’s Day: Moomba Beach Bash with DJ Bradley Fonseca from the Netherlands



PALM BEACH — A Beach Bash that will blow your mind: that is on the calendar for Saturday, April 27, King’s Day. King Willem-Alexander’s birthday is a happening, not only in Holland, but also in the ABC islands. On Aruba you will encounter lots of flea markets and other fun events. But best of all will be the Beach Bash at Moomba: starting at 12pm there will be live music, a foam bath and great Chill Bucket Deals. The entrance to the Beach Bash is free of charge - the only requirement is the dress-code: orange of course, as we celebrate the birthday of much-loved king of the House of Orange.

Starting at 12 noon DJ Golden hits it off with some great beats. Straight from the Netherlands is DJ Bradley Fonseca will be giving a smashing performance from 3pm till 7pm, followed by the popular Travel Sessions Band from 7pm till 10pm. Are you ready for a day full of fun and party?

Moomba Beach is situated between the Marriott Surf Cub and the Holiday Inn Resort. Come and celebrate on the beach! □

SPORTS



Tiger Woods wears his green jacket holding the winning trophy after the final round for the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 14, 2019, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

Tour better equipped for new round of Tigermania

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

The phone started ringing in the days after Tiger Woods won the Masters. This was in Minnesota, though it could have been most any city that hosts a PGA Tour event. His 15th major, and most improbable considering what Woods had to overcome, set off a fresh round of Tigermania. "I got called by two affiliates, either the Monday or Tuesday after the Masters, and they wanted to come over with a camera crew," said Peter Mele, tournament director of the new 3M Open the first week in July.

Rumors were swirling that Woods might return to the Twin Cities, which already has a loaded field with Brooks Koepka and Phil Mickelson, Jason Day and Bryon DeChambeau. Mele could only tell them that Woods has a history of playing two weeks before a major — the British Open in this case — so the timing was favorable and the tournament was cautiously optimistic.

Continued on Page 18

COUTURE SHOCK

San Jose wins Game 7 in OT

San Jose Sharks center Logan Couture celebrates after scoring against the Vegas Golden Knights during the third period of Game 7 of an NHL hockey first-round playoff series in San Jose, Calif., Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

Associated Press
Page 19



Tour better equipped for new round of Tigermania

Continued from Page 17

"I wouldn't have had those calls had he not won the Masters," Mele said Tuesday.

The buzz Woods generated from winning a fifth green jacket is as big as ever.

His schedule figures to be as small as ever.

Still to be determined is whether that presents the problem of a generation ago when the PGA Tour schedule was largely divided between the tournaments Woods played and those he didn't.

"The haves and have-nots," said Mele, who experienced both sides of it as the longtime tournament director of the tour's New York event. "When he was struggling with his health, it was more of a curiosity if he played. Now with the buzz after the Masters ... it's the way it used to be back in the day."

Even when he was young and healthy, Woods never played more than 21 times in a PGA Tour season. He played 18 times on the PGA Tour last year, adding a few tournaments for which he was not eligible at the start of the year.

Woods had said even before this year started he would not be playing as much. He is 43. Good health is no longer taken for granted.

Kym Hougham remembers what it was like during the



Tiger Woods reacts as he wins the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 14, 2019, in Augusta, Ga.
Associated Press

first wave of Tigermania. He became tournament director of the John Deere Classic the year after Woods made his pro debut (and never returned). Hougham later ran the Wells Fargo Championship until last year, which Woods missed only three times when healthy.

A decade ago, offer a tournament director Woods and no one else from the top 10 in the world, or eight of the top 10 minus Woods, and it was an obvious choice.

"Back in those days, most

would have taken Tiger," Hougham said. "I'm not sure that's the feeling of every tournament because every tournament has a different personality. Most title sponsors would have done that because that's when the media shows up, and it's on the front page of the sports page."

"If you had your choice, you'd take Tiger."

The Valspar Championship discovered his value a year ago when Woods added the Florida event to his schedule and the gallery at Innisbrook stood a

dozen deep behind some tee boxes. And that was six months before he returned to winning.

Any tournament would love to have Woods, especially now that his Masters moments — the cheers, the chants, the emotion — are so fresh and won't be forgotten.

But that doesn't mean it's Tiger or bust.

Even if the new Minnesota event doesn't get Woods, it already has an All-Star lineup.

The Travelers Championship never had much of

a chance of getting him because the tournament Woods hosted in Washington was the following week. It created its own identity through building strong relationships with young stars and since has attracted some of the best — Rory McIlroy, Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas — with Koepka, Day and Francesco Molinari expected this year. The stock question for every tournament — "Is Tiger playing?" — does not seem as make-or-break as it once did.

"That happened a lot more in '07 and '08," said Nathan Grube, in his 14th year as tournament director of The Travelers. "When the field started getting stronger and stronger, we stopped getting that question."

Eight players have been No. 1 since Woods was last there in 2013. Seven players — five younger than Woods — have won multiple majors in the 11 years Woods went without a major.

"What happened two weeks ago changes the dynamic," Hougham said. "He's back on top. But with the change in schedule, the fields are deeper. The tour did a nice job building up a lot of these kids. ... And they've earned their way up there. They were not in Tiger's shadow, but their own sunlight. And the sun is bright enough now. I don't think Tiger is going to overshadow them." □



Spain's Rafael Nadal returns the ball against Argentina's Leonardo Mayer during a men's singles match at the Barcelona Open Tennis Tournament in Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

Associated Press

Nadal rallies to beat Mayer in 3 sets in Barcelona Open

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Rafael Nadal recovered from a slow start to defeat Leonardo Mayer 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2 and advance to the third round of the Barcelona Open on Wednesday, keeping alive his streak of never losing consecutive matches on clay.

An 11-time champion in Barcelona, Nadal will next play fellow Spaniard David Ferrer.

The 37-year-old Ferrer, who is playing in Barcelona for the last time, defeated 15th-seeded Lucas Pouille

6-3, 6-1 in his second-round match.

The top-seeded Nadal squandered three set points in the first set, including two in the tiebreaker after exchanging breaks late in the set. He rebounded quickly by breaking Mayer's serve in the first game of the second set, then cruised to victory against the 63rd-ranked Argentine. "It wasn't the best start. Not the best feelings out there this afternoon, but I found a way to keep going and to win the match. To-

day that's the main thing," Nadal said. "(Mayer) competes well against everybody but probably today (the problem) was not that he competed very well against me. I was not competing that well."

Fognini won't be able to add to his Monte Carlo win after withdrawing from the Barcelona tournament because of a hamstring injury. He was replaced by 104th-ranked Roberto Carballes Baena, who opened with a 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-2 win over Nicola Pietrangeli. □

Lillard's 3 at buzzer gives Blazers series win over Thunder

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Damian Lillard hit a 37-footer at the buzzer and finished with career playoff-high 50 points to help the Portland Trail Blazers eliminate the Oklahoma City Thunder from the playoffs in five games with a 118-115 victory on Tuesday night.

With the game tied, Lillard dribbled just inside of half-court near the Blazers logo and then pulled up and hit the game-winner.

Lillard waved goodbye to the Thunder bench after nailing the shot, then was promptly mobbed by his teammates. As the Thunder left the floor, Lillard circled the court, high-fiving fans. The crowd chanted "MVP! MVP!" Lillard had 10 3-pointers, breaking the franchise record.

Portland advances to the Western Conference semifinals to face the winner of the series between the Nuggets and San Antonio. Denver won 108-90 earlier in the night to take a 3-2 lead in that series.

It was the 12th straight road playoff loss for the Thunder, who have been eliminated in the opening round for three straight seasons.

Russell Westbrook had 29 points, 11 rebounds and 14 assists for his 10th career playoff triple-double and his second of the series. Paul George added 36 points.

RAPTORS 115, MAGIC 96

TORONTO (AP) — Kawhi Leonard scored 27 points, Pascal Siakam added 24 and the Raptors used another stifling defensive effort to beat the Magic, winning their first-round playoff series in five games.

Kyle Lowry scored 14 points as the Raptors finished off the Magic with ease, bouncing back from a Game 1 defeat to win by double-digits in three of the next four. Toronto led by as many as 37 in the clincher, their biggest-ever margin in a playoff game.

It's the fourth straight year the Raptors have reached the second round.

Leonard made 8 of 11 shots, including 5 of 5 from 3-point range, as the Raptors jumped on Orlando

early and never trailed. Leonard also made all six of his free throws. He checked out to cheers of "MVP, MVP" with 8:05 to play and Toronto up 105-75.

D.J. Augustin scored 15 points, Terrence Ross had 12 and Aaron Gordon 11 for the Magic, who won 104-101 on Augustin's late 3-pointer in Game 1 but never again topped 96 points against Toronto's dominant defense, and twice finished with 85 or fewer.

76ERS 120, NETS 100

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joel Embiid scored 23 points and had 13 rebounds and Ben Simmons added 13 points to help the 76ers rout the Nets and close out their Eastern Conference playoff series in five games.

Up next, a second round series against the Toronto Raptors, who dropped their playoff opener before winning four straight against Orlando — the same thing the Sixers did to Brooklyn.

Any late arrivals missed the defining moments of the game from a jovial Sixers team that enjoyed toying with the sickly Nets.

The Sixers stunned the Nets with a 14-0 run in front of the loudest and rowdiest packed house of the season. Embiid again shook off a bad left knee and had six points and five rebounds in the first two minutes to chants of "MVP!" The Nets later trailed 20-2, and Simmons put an exclamation point on the stunning first quarter when he drove the paint and used a right-handed jam to make it 32-12 — with a thump of his chest for emphasis.

No starter played more than 27 minutes in a game that could have been called off after the first quarter.

Rondae Hollis-Jefferson scored 21 points for the Nets, who head into the offseason after their first playoff series since 2015.

NUGGETS 108, SPURS 90

DENVER (AP) — Jamal Murray's 23 points led six Nuggets in double figures and Denver routed the Spurs to move within one win of their first playoff series triumph in

a decade. Up 3 games to 2, the Nuggets can wrap up the series Thursday night in San Antonio, where they won last weekend for the first time since 2012, regaining the home-court advantage. The Nuggets, who posted the best home record in the NBA and ended a six-year playoff drought by earning a surprising second seed in the Western Conference playoffs, finally looked like the team that rolled through the regular season led by All-Star Nikola Jokic and backed up by the best bench in the league.

Jokic had 16 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists and Denver led by as many 30 points at 99-69, after which their starters took a seat. □



Portland Trail Blazers' Damian Lillard watches his game-winning three-pointer as Oklahoma City Thunder's Paul George defends, to beat the Thunder 118-115 in Game 5 of their best-of-seven first-round playoff series in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, April 23, 2019. Associated Press

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San Jose Sharks right wing Barclay Goodrow, center, is congratulated by defenseman Marc-Edouard Vlasic (44) and center Joe Thornton (19) after scoring the winning goal against the Vegas Golden Knights during overtime of Game 7 of an NHL hockey first-round playoff series in San Jose, Calif., Tuesday, April 23, 2019. Pictured at bottom is Golden Knights left wing Tomas Nosek (92).
Associated Press

Sharks rally from down 3 in 3rd, beat Vegas in OT in Game 7

By The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Barclay Goodrow scored 18:19 into overtime to send San Jose into the second round of the playoffs with a wild 5-4 win in Game 7 on Tuesday night.

The Sharks erased a three-goal deficit by scoring four times on a disputed major penalty in the third period and Vegas tied it in the final minute of regulation. It started at 9:13 of the third after a bloody scene on the ice led to a major penalty on Cody Eakin and sent San Jose captain Joe Pavelski to the locker room dazed.

Logan Couture scored twice, Tomas Hertl had one and then the tiebreaker came from Kevin Labanc, who assisted on the first three goals. The scoring spree in 4:01 against Marc-Andre Fleury sent the fans at the Shark Tank so used to playoff disappointment into delirium. It marked just the second time a team had scored four goals on one major power play in a playoff game.

Martin Jones then appeared ready to seal the win, robbing Mark Stone with a glove save with 3:10 to go. But the Golden Knights didn't go away and got the equalizer with Fleury pulled in the final minute.

Jonathan Marchessault got a pass from Reilly Smith from behind the net and tied it 4-4 with the latest tying goal in a Game 7 in NHL History.

William Karlsson, Max Pacioretty and Eakin also scored for Vegas, and Fleury finished with 43 saves. San Jose will face Colorado in the Western Conference semifinals.

BRUINS 5, MAPLE LEAFS 1 BOSTON (AP) — Joakim Nordstrom and Sean Kuraly each had a goal and assist, Tuukka Rask stopped 32 shots and Boston beat Toronto in Game 7 again to wrap up their first-round playoff series.

Marcus Johansson added his first goal of the postseason for Boston and Charlie Coyle scored on an empty netter late in the third. Patrice Bergeron also had a late goal.

It was the Bruins' second straight Game 7 win over the Maple Leafs and third in three playoff matchups between the teams.

Boston previously knocked Toronto out of the postseason with Game 7 victories in 2018 and 2013. The Maple Leafs have now lost six straight road Game 7s.

Boston advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals where it will meet the Columbus Blue Jackets, starting with Game 1 at home on Thursday night.

John Tavares had Toronto's goal on an assist by Tyler Ennis. Frederik Andersen finished with 27 saves.

The Maple Leafs' loss means there are no Canadian teams remaining in the playoffs.

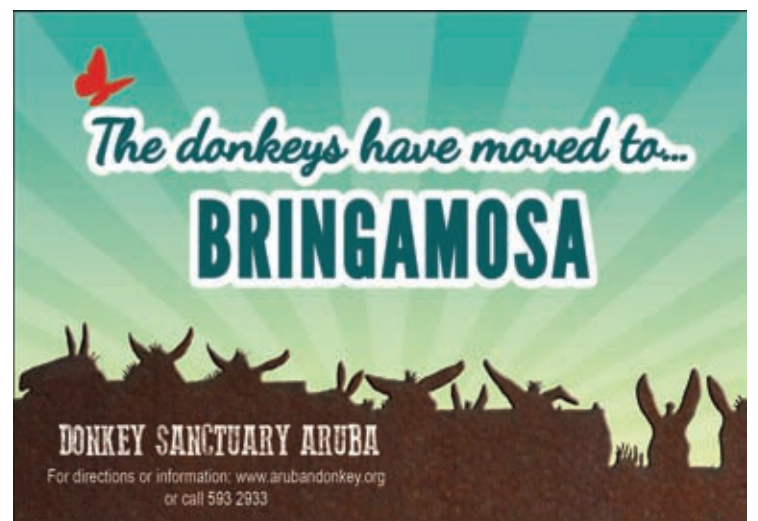
Calgary and Winnipeg previously lost their first-round series. □

HELP US HELP THEM BY BECOMING A FLIGHT VOLUNTEER!

Sgt. Pepper's Friends is a non profit organization based in Aruba. As most of our rescues are adopted to the USA and Canada, we are always looking for flight volunteers to help bring our rescues home. This process is very easy and rewarding! We arrange everything, from booking and paying for the rescue on your flight, to meeting you at the airport with the dog or cat and its papers, supplies and connect you with the adoptive family who will be waiting for you at baggage claim upon arrival. Please email us your flight date, airline and schedule should you want to help bring one of our rescues to their forever home. You can also fill in our flight volunteer form on our website under "Get involved": <http://www.sgtpeppersfriends.com/flight-volunteer-form/>

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NCAA: Replay official can overturn close targeting calls

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel adjusted the targeting rule in college football, allowing video review officials to overturn calls if any element of the penalty cannot be confirmed.

The adjustment to the rule announced Tuesday means there will be no option for letting the call on the field “stand” during a targeting review. It must either be confirmed or overturned.

The panel also approved instituting a progressive penalty for targeting. Players who commit three targeting fouls in the same season are subject to a one-game suspension.

Overtime rules also were tweaked. If a game reaches a fifth overtime, teams will run alternating 2-point plays instead of starting



In this Nov. 3, 2018, file photo, referee Reggie Smith reviews a targeting penalty during the first half of an NCAA college football game in Lubbock, Texas.

Associated Press

another drive at the opponent's 25-yard line. The change was made to limit the number of plays from

scrimmage and to bring the game to a conclusion. Targeting, or illegal hits above the shoulders,

would still result in a 15-yard penalty and ejection of the player who committed the foul. Players ejected in the second half would still be required to sit out the first half of the following game. The goal of the rule adjustment is to call targeting more accurately and have fewer players ejected for borderline calls. The option to let a call on the field “stand” meant that the video review official didn't find enough evidence to reverse the call, so the 15-yard penalty and player ejection remained in effect. The rule adjustment puts the onus on the replay official to make a definitive call.

The overtime rule change was proposed after LSU and Texas A&M matched a record by playing seven overtimes in their regular-season finale last

year. The Tigers and Aggies combined to run 207 offensive plays.

On average, 37 Bowl Subdivision games have gone to overtime over the past four seasons. Most end after one round of possessions. Only six games per season have gone past two overtimes, but the concern was those rare marathons came with increased injury risk for players.

The panel also approved the elimination of the two-man wedge formation on kickoffs that result in sprinting players running into double-team blocks. Also, it is now illegal to block an opponent with forcible contact on the blind side. It will be a personal foul with a 15-yard penalty. If the block also includes elements of targeting, it will be a blind-side block with targeting. □

IndyCar hoping debris deflector helps protect drivers



The Advanced Frontal Protection device is shown directly in front of IndyCar driver Josef Newgarden as he climbs into his car during auto racing testing at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Will Power got his first real glimpse at IndyCar's new debris deflector Wednesday. He is still getting used to the small piece on the front of his race car.

The defending Indianapolis 500 champion and 2014 series champion was one of more than two dozen drivers who spent Wednesday

testing the safety device designed to reduce the risk of head injuries in the series that features open cockpits. “You notice it,” the Australian driver said during a rain delay at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. “But you really need to be in it at top speeds, following cars. Anything you can do to protect the head is a good thing.” IndyCar engineers worked on a so-called halo

device, similar to the one adopted by Formula One in 2018, but shelved it because it couldn't be fitted on the car and there were concerns about impeding drivers' sight lines. Scott Dixon and Josef Newgarden also worked with a clear windscreen last year, but IndyCar president Jay Frye said series officials did not get the desired results. That project continues. □

SMI wants to become private NASCAR track operator

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The parent company of Speedway Motorsports Inc. has made an offer to acquire all of its outstanding common stock, the second move of its kind involving one of the key racetrack operators in NASCAR in the past five months.

Sonic Financial Corp. has offered to buy back all outstanding SMI stock for \$18 per share. The stock closed at \$13.94 on Tuesday and the 52-week high for the stock was \$18.36.

Bruton Smith is the founder

and majority stakeholder in SMI, which operates eight tracks that host NASCAR Cup Series races. Smith and his family also own Sonic.

NASCAR in November offered to acquire all the outstanding shares of Class A and B common stock of International Speedway Corp. not already owned by the controlling shareholders of NASCAR. ISC has 12 tracks that host 21 Cup events. SMI has 13 Cup events, and the NASCAR schedule is 38 races.

If the ISC and SMI deals go

through, the two top track operators in NASCAR will become private companies. That could ease any restructuring of the stagnant stock car racing series.

In a letter Sonic sent to the SMI board of directors, the company noted “NASCAR racing has faced several challenges in recent years, and the company has been impacted by these challenges. NASCAR has indicated the sport would benefit from structural change.” □



Martin Truex Jr. (19) crosses the finish line in front of Joey Logano (22) to win the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Richmond Raceway in Richmond, Va., Saturday, April 13, 2019.

Associated Press

Sale remains winless as Tigers sweep Red Sox 7-4, 4-2

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Zack Wheeler hit his first major league home run and struck out 11 in seven sharp innings as New York handed Philadelphia its fifth loss in six games.

The only spirit the Phillies showed came with two outs in the ninth when two fastballs by Mets reliever Jacob Rhame sailed over Rhys Hoskins' head. The benches started to clear after the first time, and Hoskins angrily slung his bat after the next one, which was ball four.

A career .129 hitter, Wheeler (2-2) lined a two-run double in the second off Zach Eflin (2-3). The next time up, Wheeler did even better, launching a drive over the wall in left-center.

Todd Frazier connected for a grand slam that made it 8-0 in the fifth.

CARDINALS 4, BREWERS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Paul DeJong hit a tiebreaking, leadoff homer in the eighth inning, Yadier Molina had three hits and two RBIs, and St. Louis beat Milwaukee. Milwaukee had three solo homers, two by Travis Shaw and another by Orlando Arcia.

DeJong took reliever Alex Wilson (1-1) deep to make it 3-2. Molina hit his second double with one out, scoring Jose Martinez, who had walked to go with two singles.

Molina stole third but was stranded there. It was his first stolen base this season and the 17th time he's stolen third in his career.

Andrew Miller (1-1) struck out two in a perfect eighth to pick up his first win as a Cardinal. Jordan Hicks pitched the ninth for his sixth save.

CUBS 7, DODGERS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — José Quintana pitched seven crisp innings in his third straight win, and Chicago used a fast start to beat Los Angeles.

Willson Contreras hit a three-run double in Chicago's four-run first, and Anthony Rizzo added a two-run drive in the second. Javier Báez juiced around first

baseman David Freese for a memorable infield single in the second and had a

just in front of the fence and the ball bounced out of his glove and went over.

fore hitting Howie Kendrick with a pitch. Raimel Tapia homered for

a 5-4 lead, Jessie Biddle forced in a run with a bases-loaded walk to pinch-



Boston Red Sox pitching coach Dana LeVangie, left, walks back to the dugout after a conference on the mound with Chris Sale, center, during the fifth inning of the first game of a baseball doubleheader against the Detroit Tigers in Boston, Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

Associated Press

solo homer in the seventh. It was more than enough support for Quintana (3-1), who turned in another gem in the Cubs' sixth win in seven games. The veteran left-hander allowed two runs and four hits while improving to 3-0 with a sparkling 0.86 ERA since he was hit hard in a loss at Milwaukee on April 5.

NL West-leading Los Angeles had won seven of eight. But the Dodgers were unable to recover after Kenta Maeda (3-2) struggled early on.

PADRES 6, MARINERS 3

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Austin Hedges' two-run homer bounced out of center fielder Mallex Smith's glove and over the fence, and Franmil Reyes homered twice and had three RBIs. Hedges had an unusual homer on a fly ball to deep center off reliever Cory Garrin with two outs in the sixth. Smith, a former Padres' farmhand, leaped

Reyes hit a two-run homer to cap the three-run second inning and connected again off rookie Erik Swanson (0-2) with two outs in the sixth.

Nick Margevicius (2-2) allowed two runs and four hits in five innings, struck out four and walked five. Kirby Yates pitched the ninth for his 11th save in as many chances.

NATIONALS 6, ROCKIES 3

DENVER (AP) — Patrick Corbin pitched six strong innings, Victor Robles hit a three-run double, and Washington beat Colorado.

Corbin (2-0) gave up three runs — two earned — and five hits, and had a key base hit in Washington's four-run third inning. Sean Doolittle got the last four outs for his third save.

Washington scored two runs in the top of the ninth when Rockies reliever DJ Johnson walked Juan Soto with the bases loaded be-

Colorado and Ryan McMahon had two hits. Jeff Hoffman (0-1), recalled from Triple-A Albuquerque to start in place of injured Kyle Freeland (finger blister), sailed through the first two innings only to run into trouble in the third. He allowed four runs in five innings.

REDS 7, BRAVES 6

CINCINNATI (AP) — Yasiel Puig hit a two-run homer in the first inning off the facade of the second deck in left-center field, and Cincinnati wasted an early lead and then rallied to beat Atlanta.

José Peraza had his first RBIs since homering on opening day, and Tucker Barnhart homered for the Reds, who have won four of five following a four-game losing streak. Cincinnati led 3-0 in the fifth inning, fell behind 4-3 in the sixth, then scored four runs in the bottom half. Peraza hit a two-run double off Kevin Gausman (1-2) for

hitter Phillip Ervin and Puig hit a sacrifice fly against Wes Parsons.

Robert Stephenson (2-0) struck out two batters with a runner on third to end the sixth. Raisel Iglesias retired Ozzie Albies, Josh Donaldson and Freddie Freeman for his fifth save.

DIAMONDBACKS 2, PIRATES 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jarrod Dyson dived around catcher Francisco Cervelli but was only credited with the go-ahead run in the sixth inning after a replay review. Luke Weaver (2-1) struck out seven over 6 1/3 innings and won his second straight start.

Andrew Chafin and Archie Bradley got the ball to Greg Holland, who worked around a walk and a wild pitch to earn his fifth save. Both runs went against Pirates starter Trevor Williams (1-1), who threw seven innings. He struck out four and walked one. □

Wheeler homers, strikes out 11 as Mets rout Phillies 9-0

By The Associated Press

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es-loaded walk to pinch-hitter Phillip Ervin and Puig hit a sacrifice fly against



New York Mets' Pete Alonso (20) beats the throw to first base as Philadelphia Phillies' Rhys Hoskins loses control of the ball during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 23, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

support for Quintana (3-1), who turned in another gem in the Cubs' sixth win in seven games. The veteran left-hander allowed two runs and four hits while improving to 3-0 with a sparkling 0.86 ERA since he was hit hard in a loss at Milwaukee on April 5.

NL West-leading Los Angeles had won seven of eight. But the Dodgers were unable to recover after Kenta Maeda (3-2) struggled early on.

PADRES 6, MARINERS 3

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Austin Hedges' two-run homer bounced out of center fielder Mallex Smith's glove and over the fence, and Franmil Reyes homered twice and had three RBIs. Hedges had an unusual homer on a fly ball to deep center off reliever Cory Garrin with two outs in the sixth. Smith, a former Padres' farmhand, leaped just in front of the fence and the ball bounced out of his glove and went over. Reyes hit a two-run homer to cap the three-run sec-

the sixth.

Nick Margevicius (2-2) allowed two runs and four hits in five innings, struck out four and walked five. Kirby Yates pitched the ninth for his 11th save in as many chances.

NATIONALS 6, ROCKIES 3

DENVER (AP) — Patrick Corbin pitched six strong innings, Victor Robles hit a three-run double, and Washington beat Colorado.

Corbin (2-0) gave up three runs — two earned — and five hits, and had a key base hit in Washington's four-run third inning. Sean Doolittle got the last four outs for his third save.

Washington scored two runs in the top of the ninth when Rockies reliever DJ Johnson walked Juan Soto with the bases loaded before hitting Howie Kendrick with a pitch.

Raimel Tapia homered for

Triple-A Albuquerque to start in place of injured Kyle Freeland (finger blister), sailed through the first two innings only to run into trouble in the third. He allowed four runs in five innings.

REDS 7, BRAVES 6

CINCINNATI (AP) — Yasiel Puig hit a two-run homer in the first inning off the facade of the second deck in left-center field, and Cincinnati wasted an early lead and then rallied to beat Atlanta.

José Peraza had his first RBIs since homering on opening day, and Tucker Barnhart homered for the Reds, who have won four of five following a four-game losing streak. Cincinnati led 3-0 in the fifth inning, fell behind 4-3 in the sixth, then scored four runs in the bottom half. Peraza hit a two-run double off Kevin Gausman (1-2) for a 5-4 lead, Jessie Biddle forced in a run with a bas-

Wes Parsons.

Robert Stephenson (2-0) struck out two batters with a runner on third to end the sixth. Raisel Iglesias retired Ozzie Albies, Josh Donaldson and Freddie Freeman for his fifth save.

DIAMONDBACKS 2, PIRATES 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jarrod Dyson dived around catcher Francisco Cervelli but was only credited with the go-ahead run in the sixth inning after a replay review. Luke Weaver (2-1) struck out seven over 6 1/3 innings and won his second straight start. Andrew Chafin and Archie Bradley got the ball to Greg Holland, who worked around a walk and a wild pitch to earn his fifth save.

Both runs went against Pirates starter Trevor Williams (1-1), who threw seven innings. He struck out four and walked one. □

5 reasons experts think autonomous cars are many years away

By **TOM KRISHER**
AP Auto Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — In the world of autonomous vehicles, Pittsburgh, Phoenix and Silicon Valley are bustling hubs of development and testing. But ask those involved in self-driving vehicles when we might actually see them carrying passengers in every city, and you'll get an almost universal answer: Not anytime soon.

An optimistic assessment is 10 years. Many others say decades as researchers try to conquer a number of obstacles.

That makes Tesla's declarations that it will offer fully autonomous vehicles by the second quarter of next year all the more striking. The company announced its ambitious plans during an investor conference on Monday. But skeptics doubt that Tesla can pull it off.

Here are the problems that researchers must overcome to start giving rides without humans behind the wheel:

SNOW AND WEATHER

When it's heavy enough to cover the pavement, snow blocks the view of lane lines that vehicle cameras use to find their way. Researchers so far haven't figured out a way around this. That's why much of the testing is done in warm-weather climates such as Arizona and California.



In this Dec. 18, 2018, photo, one of the test vehicles from Argo AI, Ford's autonomous vehicle unit, navigates through the strip district near the company offices in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

Heavy snow, rain, fog and sandstorms can obstruct the view of cameras. Light beams sent out by laser sensors can bounce off snowflakes and think they are obstacles. Radar can see through the weather, but it doesn't show the shape of an object needed for computers to figure out what it is.

"It's like losing part of your vision," says Raj Rajkumar, an electrical and computer engineering professor at Carnegie Mellon University. Researchers are working on laser sensors that use a different light beam wavelength to see through snowflakes, said Greg McGuire, director of the MCity

autonomous vehicle testing lab at the University of Michigan. Software also is being developed so vehicles can differentiate between real obstacles and snowflakes, rain, fog, and other conditions.

But many companies are still trying to master the difficult task of driving on a clear day with steady traction.

"Once we are able to have a system reliably perform in those, then we'll start working toward expanding to those more challenging conditions," said Noah Zych, Uber's head of system safety for self-driving cars.

In some limited areas that

have been mapped in three dimensions, the cars can function in light snow and rain.

PAVEMENT LINES AND CURBS

Across the globe, roadway marking lines are different, or they may not even exist. Lane lines aren't standardized, so vehicles have to learn how to drive differently in each city. Sometimes there aren't any curbs to help vehicles judge lane width.

For instance, in Pittsburgh's industrial "Strip District," where many self-driving vehicles are tested, the city draws lines across the narrow lanes to mark where

vehicles should stop for stop signs. Sometimes the lines are so far back and buildings are so close to the street that autonomous cars can't see traffic on the cross street if they stop at the line. One workaround is to program vehicles to stop for the line and creep forward.

"Is it better to do a double stop?" asked Pete Rander, president of Argo AI, an autonomous vehicle company in which Ford has invested heavily. "Since intersections vary, it's not that easy."

DEALING WITH HUMAN DRIVERS

For many years, autonomous vehicles will have to deal with humans who don't always play by the rules. They double-park or walk in front of cars. Recently in Pittsburgh, an Argo backup driver had to take over when his car stopped during a right turn, blocking an intersection when it couldn't immediately decide whether to go around a double-parked delivery truck.

"Even if the car might eventually figure something out, it's shared space, and it's socially unacceptable" to block traffic, Rander said. Humans also make eye contact with other drivers to make sure they're looking in the right direction, something still being developed for autonomous vehicles. □



In this Sept. 25, 2015, file photo, a child holds an Apple iPhone 6S at an Apple store on Chicago's Magnificent Mile in Chicago.

Associated Press

UN: No screen time for babies; only 1 hour for kids under 5

LONDON (AP) — The World Health Organization has issued its first-ever guidance for how much screen time children under 5 should get: not very much, and none at all for those under 1. The U.N. health agency said Wednesday that kids under 5 should not spend more than one hour watching screens every day — and that less is better.

The guidelines are somewhat similar to advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics. That group rec-

ommends children younger than 18 months should avoid screens other than video chats. It says parents of young children under two should choose "high-quality programming" with educational value and that can be watched with a parent to help kids understand what they're seeing. Some groups said WHO's screen time guidelines failed to consider the potential benefits of digital media.

WHO's screen time advice

"overly focuses on quantity of screen time and fails to consider the content and context of use," said Andrew Przybylski, director of research at the Oxford Internet Institute at the University of Oxford. "Not all screen time is created equal."

Britain's Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health said the data available were too weak to allow its experts to set any thresholds for the appropriate level of screen time. □

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Wall Street keeps hitting records. What do investors do now?

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
Associated Press

The S&P 500 just hit an all-time high, recovering from last year's dramatic plunge. The economy seems to be on fairly solid footing, still it's anyone's guess what happens next for the stock market.

So what does this mean for the average investor? Here are answers to some questions about where stocks stand and what Wall Street experts think you should do next:

Q. The S&P is at an all-time high, should I be euphoric?

A. No. It's fine to be pleased about hearty returns on your investments. But it's not a good idea to tie your emotions closely to the ups and downs of the stock market. You'll get tired fast. This market moment comes on the heels of last year's nosedive. And it's not the first or last time the stock market will make a dramatic move.



In this Thursday, April 18, 2019, file photo, Tommy Kalikas, right, works with fellow traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange during the Brigham Minerals IPO.

Associated Press

Q. So what happened?

A. It's more about what happened last year. The S&P 500 was at its last record high in the fall, then the market sank in the fourth quarter due in large part to growing fears of a recession, an escalating trade war between the U.S. and China and concern the Federal Reserve was moving too aggressively to

raise interest rates.

Those concerns have largely been quelled. The U.S. and China are slowly moving toward a trade agreement. The Federal Reserve has indicated it likely will not raise rates at all in 2019 after seven recent increases. And those changes, along with some strong earnings reports and broader healthy econom-

ic indicators, have fueled some optimism in stock markets.

"The panic in the fourth quarter was based mostly on fears," said Brent Schutte, chief investment strategist for Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company. "The fundamentals have mostly held up, while the fears have gone away and the fears were based mostly on emotion."

Q. Should I buy? Should I sell?

A. Maybe. It depends on what your long-term investment plan is. The best advice is usually the same no matter the day — determine your financial goals, make a plan to reach them and stick to it.

"I would encourage (investors) not to overreact to highs, just as I would encourage them not to overreact to the lows of December," Schutte said.

All the same, there are

some situations in which you should consider taking action. If you think you can't live through another low like last year, the time to get out is now. If the balance of assets in your portfolio is out of whack thanks to the rise of the stock market, make adjustments. And if you need your money in the next five to 10 years, it shouldn't be in stocks anyhow. But for most people, it's also a good time to just leave things be.

Q. Will the rally last?

A. No one knows for sure. But David Bailin, chief investment officer at Citi Private Bank, expects the U.S. market could move up 5% to 7% more over the next nine to 12 months, provided the Fed doesn't raise rates and earnings growth exceeds current expectations. We are in a late cycle market, a period when U.S. equities have historically done very well, but volatility also rises, he said. □

German business outlook darkens amid trade slowdown

By DAVID McHUGH
Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — An index of German business optimism fell in April as Europe's largest economy struggles with a slowdown in trade and manufacturing even as it finds support from a strong labor market.

The Ifo institute said Wednesday its business climate index slipped to 99.2 points from 99.7 points in March, indicating managers were

less satisfied with both the current situation and the outlook for the future.

The survey was worse than forecast by market analysts, who had predicted a slight increase.

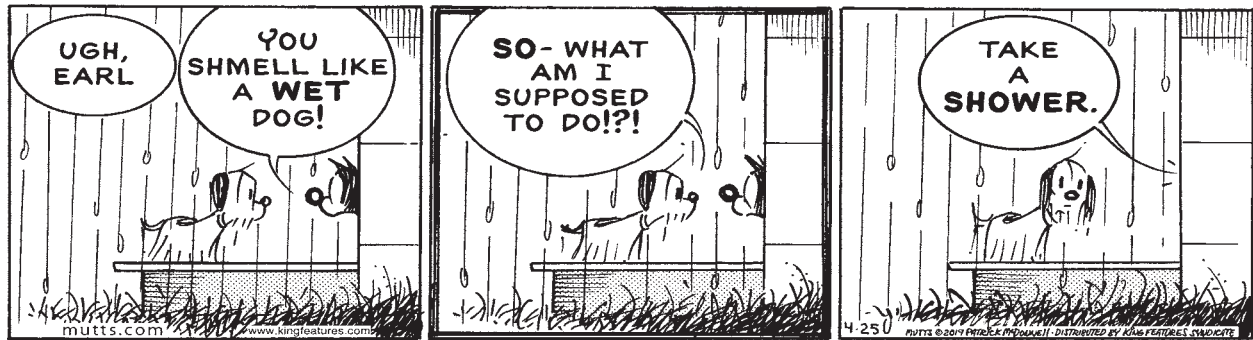
"This is consistent with our view that Germany's economy is likely to grow at a very anemic pace this year, even if there is a slight pickup in growth" in the first quarter, said Andrew Kenningham, chief Europe economist at Capital Economics.

German's economy endured flat growth at the end of last year despite low unemployment that has helped keep consumers spending. The jobless rate was only 3.1 percent in February. The slowdown was blamed on one-time factors such as troubles in the auto industry over new emissions standards and low river levels that disrupted production. Slowing global trade has held back export-oriented manufacturing.

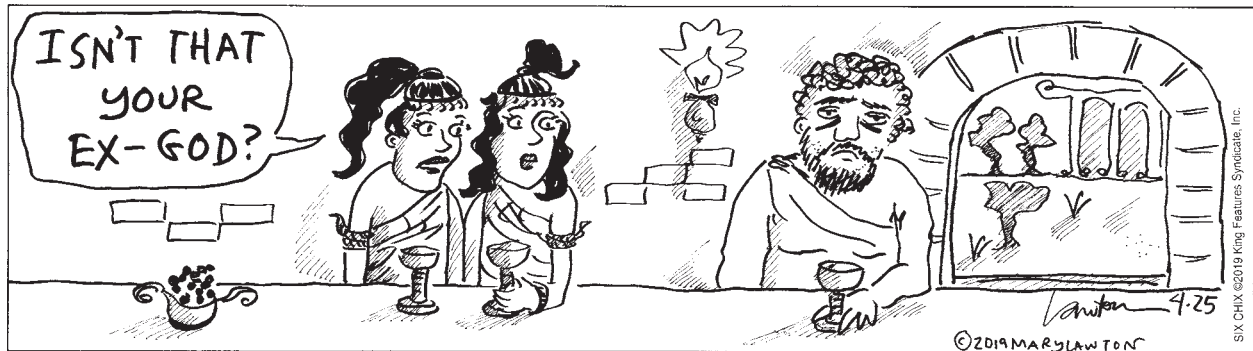
The government on April 17 cut its growth forecast for the full year to 0.5 percent.

A less pessimistic view was taken by Carsten Brzeski, chief economist at ING Germany. He said the picture in industry was not as disastrous as some recent data would indicate. Recent zig-zagging of indicators "should be seen as evidence of a bottoming out — confusion as a sign of stabilization," he wrote in an email. □

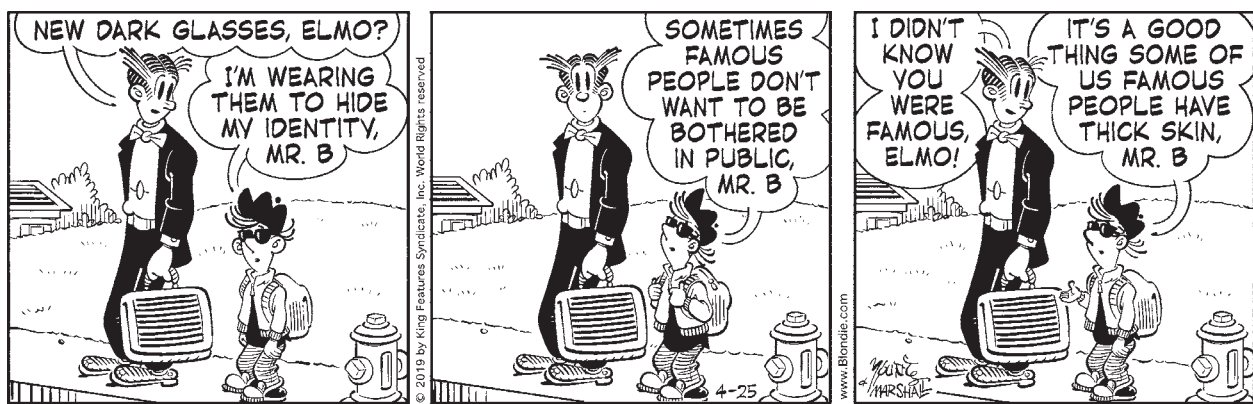
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



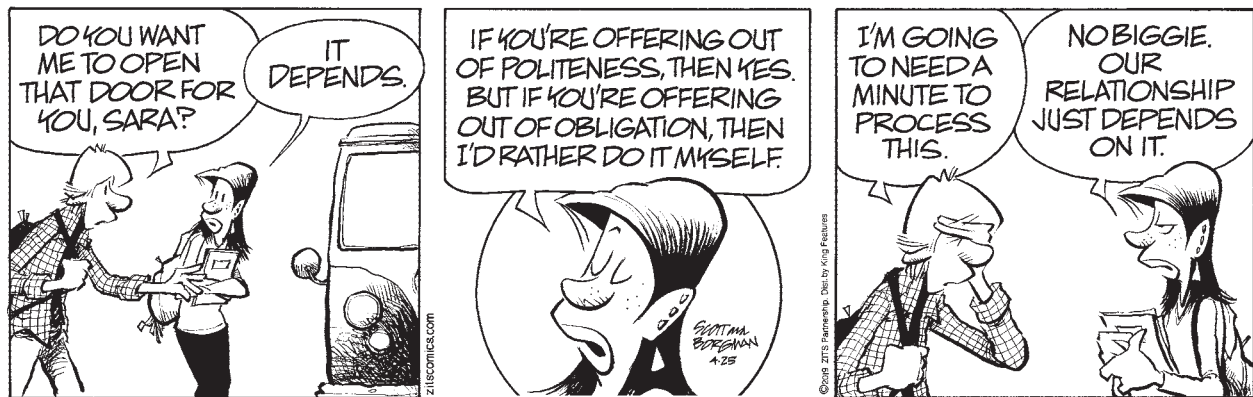
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	3				5		8	4
2	7							9
		9			4			
					3	7		5
9		2	1					
			3			4		
7							3	2
6	9		8				5	

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/25

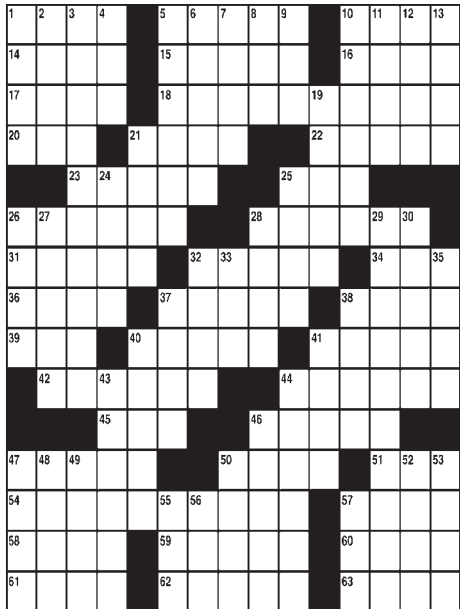
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	1	7	5	2	3	8	6	9
9	8	2	1	4	6	3	5	7
5	6	3	8	9	7	1	2	4
3	2	4	6	1	9	5	7	8
7	5	6	4	8	2	9	3	1
8	9	1	3	7	5	6	4	2
6	4	9	2	5	8	7	1	3
2	7	5	9	3	1	4	8	6
1	3	8	7	6	4	2	9	5

ACROSS

- 1 Abnormal sac
- 5 Reprimand
- 10 "Guilty" or "Not guilty"
- 14 Actor's part
- 15 Cream of the crop
- 16 Dishonest one
- 17 Grew old
- 18 Large antelope
- 20 Canister
- 21 Refuse to obey
- 22 Goes on and on
- 23 Grumpy or Doc
- 25 "He's got the whole world in ___ hands..."
- 26 Martin and Charlie
- 28 Baffling riddles
- 31 Main artery
- 32 Valleys
- 34 Polish off
- 36 Opponents
- 37 Flies alone
- 38 Depressed
- 39 Sullivan & O'Neill
- 40 Future mare
- 41 Harmony
- 42 Leisurely walk
- 44 Tricks
- 45 Provoke
- 46 Mrs. Claus' hubby
- 47 Move slightly
- 50 ___ off; repel
- 51 Tit for ___
- 54 Accumulating
- 57 Linear measure
- 58 Isn't ___ to; can't
- 59 Good wood for rafts
- 60 Team defeat
- 61 Throw
- 62 Look of contempt
- 63 Shoelace problem



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/25/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

ERIN	LAPS	CROC
LONER	OMIT	LAVA
LATTE	SANITIZED	
AMITIE	CHEERS	
MEANS	KIN	
TRIVIA	MORTAL	
WIDEN	FRAUD	CEE
IDAS	HEIST	BRAY
GET	BEADS	TROVE
REGRET	GRAPES	
ROD	TOUGH	
ORDEAL	UPS	OAT
DAREDEVIL	TABLE	
DRAT	SARI	SLIPS
SEWS	STEP	LAST

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4/25/19

DOWN

- 1 Grouch
- 2 Cartoon bear
- 3 Thinnest
- 4 Knight or Turner
- 5 Underground disposal systems
- 6 Precipice
- 7 Greasy
- 8 Classic Ford
- 9 Billy Williams
- 10 Polite person's word
- 11 Reclines
- 12 Vane direction
- 13 Painting & sculpturing
- 19 Happiness
- 21 Actress Delany
- 24 Moistens
- 25 Garden tools
- 26 Bank vault
- 27 Parka features
- 28 Stratagem
- 29 Ease; restfulness
- 30 Gravy
- 32 Raggedy Ann or Barbie
- 33 "___ in a day's work"
- 35 Golf shop purchase
- 37 Kimono fabric
- 38 Mixer speed

- 40 One's strong point
- 41 Fishing spot
- 43 Soldiers' guns
- 44 Airplane shelter
- 46 Good judgment
- 47 "Get lost!"
- 48 Tramp
- 49 Problems
- 50 Rank's partner, in phrase
- 52 Too
- 53 Trial run
- 55 "60 Minutes" network
- 56 Brown shade
- 57 Jan. holiday honoree

Jaguar recovery plan envisions sprawling habitat areas

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — A plan by wildlife officials to bolster the endangered jaguar population in the U.S. Southwest and Mexico by establishing two sprawling habitat areas drew criticism Wednesday from environmental groups. The final recovery plan for the large cats was released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

It calls for one habitat area from western Mexico into southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico. The other would stretch from eastern Mexico to northern Argentina.

Mexico as well as countries in Central and South America would be primarily responsible for monitoring jaguar movements within their territory, according to the plan. Environmental groups slammed the plan. Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity called it "feeble" because it "relies entirely on Mexico to ensure the cats' survival." Even with gaps to accommodate jaguars, a wall would cut off the possibility of the animals recovering in their native range, he said.

Defenders of Wildlife said the U.S. agency is overlooking millions of acres of potential habitat farther north in the U.S. □

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ARUBA TODAY **BONDIA**

How to reach us!

Downtown

Robotic device winds its own way through beating pig heart

BY SETH BORENSTEIN and LAURAN NEERGAARD

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Borrowing from the way cockroaches skitter along walls, scientists have created a robotic device that safely guides itself through the delicate chambers of a pig's heart as it's beating. It is one of the first times researchers have shown that a truly autonomous surgical robot can navigate inside the heart, not controlled by a doctor with a joystick, according to a study in Wednesday's journal *Science Robotics*.

Heart surgeons routinely push a thin tube called a catheter through twisting and turning blood vessels to make repairs in the heart without open surgery. But how does a robotic version find its own way through moving heart tissue and with blood swishing in the way?

Researchers at Boston Children's Hospital turned the catheter's camera tip into essentially an "optical whisker," said cardiac bioengineering chief Pierre Dupont, the lead researcher. Just as cockroaches navigate along walls and rats reach out with their whiskers, the



This undated photo provided by Margherita Mencattelli in April 2019 shows the tip of a robotic catheter equipped with a small camera and lighting encased in silicone, in Boston.

catheter maps its path through the heart, tapping periodically against the heart's valve and wall ever so lightly — with about the force of a stick of butter sitting in your hand, Dupont said. The technology combines the camera's images with machine learning to interpret what tissue it's touching and how hard.

"This robot is trying to walk

along the wall of the heart until it gets to the valve," Dr. Uma Duvvuri of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, who heads a robotic innovation lab but wasn't part of Wednesday's study. "That's a pretty exciting development but this is still very, very preliminary."

The demonstration technology is still years away from any operating room, and

isn't designed to replace a surgeon, Dupont said. Instead, he said it might free up a surgeon's time to focus on harder tasks, comparing it to a plane's autopilot — and also reduce the time patients and medical staff are exposed to X-rays that currently are needed for navigation.

"The easiest part of autonomy in surgery is the

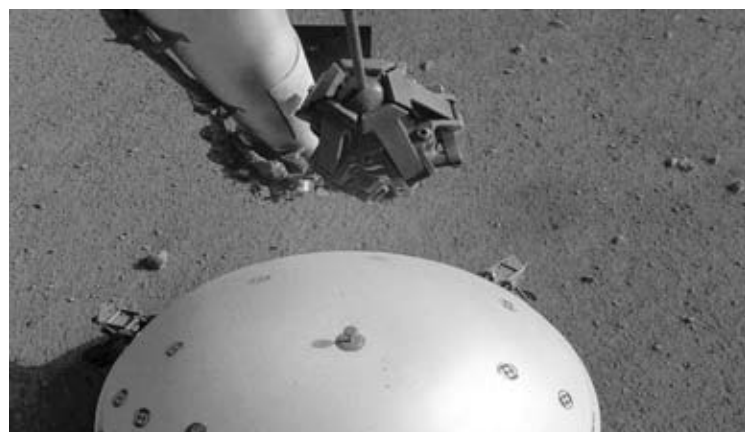
technology," Dupont said. "The hardest parts are the politics, the regulatory" approval and legal efforts.

Dupont's team tested the robotic catheter in 83 procedures in live pigs in a lab. The device found its target, on average taking seconds longer than a doctor threading a catheter into place. But Dupont said the robotic catheter will learn, just like humans, and get better and faster with more practice.

Russ Taylor, a medical robotics specialist at Johns Hopkins University, called the technology clever and the study "a significant achievement, but I wouldn't flag it as a breakthrough."

Robots with different levels of autonomy have been used in surgery for radiation therapy and orthopedics, said Taylor, who wasn't part of the research. And Pittsburgh's Duvvuri pointed to studies with a robot that can stitch tissues together without human help.

Still, true autonomy, "in my humble opinion, it's still a hammer looking for a nail," said Duvvuri, who couldn't think of an area where it would improve a procedure. □



This photo made available by NASA on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 shows the InSight lander's domed wind and thermal shield which covers a seismometer on the 110th Martian day, or sol, of the mission.

Associated Press

Mars lander picks up what's likely 1st detected marsquake

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — NASA's InSight lander has picked up a gentle rumble at Mars, believed to be the first marsquake ever detected. InSight's quake monitor recorded and measured the faint signal April 6, and scientists announced the finding Tuesday. While the rumble sounds like soft wind, scientists believe it came from within the red planet. The Paris Institute of Earth Physics' Philippe Lognonne, who's in charge of the experiment, said it's exciting to finally have proof that Mars is still seismically active. Mars is not nearly as geologically active as Earth

and, like our moon, lacks tectonic plates. "We've been waiting months for a signal like this," Lognonne said in a statement.

InSight's lead scientist, Bruce Banerdt of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, said this carries out the scientific work begun by the Apollo moonwalkers nearly a half-century ago. The astronauts left behind seismometers that measured thousands of moonquakes. As for Mars, "we've been collecting background noise up until now, but this first event officially kicks off a new field: Martian seismology!" Banerdt said in a statement. Researchers are still analyzing the data,

as well as three other even fainter seismic signals detected since mid-March. By analyzing marsquakes, scientists hope to learn more about how rocky planets formed. The French seismometer was placed directly on the Martian surface in December, a few weeks after the spacecraft landed. InSight's other main experiment isn't going as well. The German-built drilling instrument — dubbed the mole — has managed to penetrate only a foot or two (50 centimeters) into Mars, far short of its goal to measure the planet's internal temperature. Engineers are still trying to figure out why and how the device got stuck. □

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Sting on Las Vegas residency, new album and Juice WRLD

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Sin City? More like Sting City.

Grammy-winning superstar Sting is heading to Las Vegas to launch a residency next year.

Sixteen performances of "Sting: My Songs" will take place at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, beginning May 22, 2020. Shows are also planned for June, August and September.

"Visually, sound-wise, dancing — it's going to be a Vegas show. I'm really committed to that," Sting said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I am a little frightened and a little excited at the same time." Tickets for the general public, starting at \$59, go on sale May 3.

Sting said he's been offered a residency in Vegas in the past, but he felt it wasn't the right time: "I always thought, 'I'm not quite ready for that. I'm still a touring animal.'" (Now) I'm ready."

Residencies in Vegas once were meant for acts heading into retirement or in the final stretch of their careers, but that's changed with contemporary artists going to the city to perform, from Jennifer Lopez to Lady Gaga.



This Jan. 28, 2018 file photo shows Sting performing at the 60th annual Grammy Awards in New York.

Sting said he likes the idea of performing at a single venue every night, compared to traveling city-to-city on a normal tour.

"Being in one place is actually a different, spiritual vibe," the English performer said. "Welcoming people into your house — that's basically what it's going to

be. I'll be telling the story of my life through songs. I've had a long, interesting life and I can't wait."

Before he heads to Vegas, Sting has a string of projects in the works: He will tour the United Kingdom with Shaggy (they won the best reggae album Grammy this year for their collaborative

album "44/876"); he has a number of solo shows in the United States and around the world; and he will release a new album, "My Songs," on May 24.

The album finds Sting reshaping and re-imagining some of his biggest hits, from "Every Breath You Take" to "If You Love Some-

body Set Them Free."

"We weren't treating the original recordings as holy relics or museum pieces ... we were just having fun with the songs," said the 67-year-old, adding that his voice is now "different to what it was 30, 40 years ago. It has more texture, a richness to it."

His song, "Shape of My Heart," will also appear on the new album. The tune has been sampled by a number of artists throughout the years, from rapper Nas to Grammy-winning R&B singer Monica to English singer Craig David, who collaborated with Sting when he re-worked the song in 2002.

The most famous version is Juice WRLD's "Lucid Dreams," one of the biggest hits of the last year.

"I'm always intrigued by that. I'm always pleased by what I hear because they hear something in that lovely, descending bass line that makes for reflection. That pleases me. And there have been some fabulous versions," Sting said of artists sampling "Shape of My Heart."

"I was very impressed by what he put on top of (my version)," he said of "Lucid Dreams" specifically. "It's a really good song." □

Erin Kelly's new novel staggers at an asylum

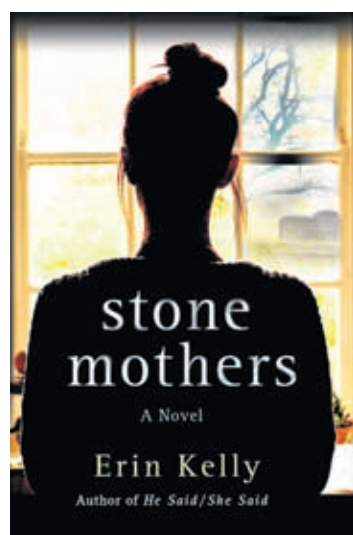
By OLIVE H. COGDILL

Associated Press

"Stone Mothers: a Novel" (Minotaur), by Erin Kelly

An imposing former mental asylum reconfigured as a high-end spa and apartment building looms over a remote England town and over the life of Marianne Thackeray in this gothic-inspired thriller that languishes in over-plotting.

At one time, Nazareth Mental Hospital was the main employer in Nustead, England. Originally called the East Anglia Pauper Lunatic Asylum, the hospital was built during the Victorian era. Its closing during the 1980s plunged the town into an economic downturn from which it — and



This cover image released by Minotaur shows "Stone Mothers," a novel by Erin Kelly.

Associated Press

many families — have never recovered.

The person responsible for the hospital's closing was

Helen Greenlaw, the roundly hated chair of the local health authority whose reputation for ruthlessness rivaled that of Margaret Thatcher. When they were teenagers, Marianne and her boyfriend, Jesse Brame, stumbled across forgotten medical records in the abandoned hospital proving that Helen was once a patient there. They used these records to blackmail the rising politician.

That was 30 years ago and the decades have been good to Helen, who is now an MP — member of Parliament — and Marianne, who is an architecture lecturer and married to a loving man. Jesse hasn't fared as well, barely paying his

bills or child support.

Marianne has spent decades trying to escape her background. But now she's back in Nustead, helping to care for her mother who is suffering from dementia. Consumed by jealousy at how well Helen and Marianne have done, Jesse tries to bully his former girlfriend into blackmailing Helen once again. If not, he will reveal Marianne's past as a blackmailer to her husband and emotionally fragile daughter.

"Stone Mothers" alternates in time as it explores the past and present of the three characters. The flashbacks of Helen are the most gripping as it reveals why she shut the mental

hospital and why she is trying to change the outdated and cruel "lunacy laws" that allowed her parents to put her in an asylum when she was a rebellious teenager. But neither Marianne nor Jesse are interesting enough to sustain their stories. That former hospital renamed Park Royal Manor is hardly threatening.

The dense plot of "Stone Mothers" offers few surprises, dull-edged twists and uninspired characters. "Stone Mothers" is so unlike Kelly's 2017 outstanding outing, "He Said/She Said," a tense, gripping psychological thriller about a marriage and obsessions set against the background of a solar eclipse. □

Gina Rodriguez stars in Netflix's 'Someone Great'

By **JAKE COYLE**
Associated Press

The romantic comedy, left for dead by most of the major studios, has been re-born on Netflix. Streaming algorithms have swooped in to resurrect an old genre formula. The results so far — “To All the Boys I’ve Ever Loved Before,” “The Incredible Jessica James,” “Set It Up” — haven’t been the stuff

of rom-com revolution, but they’ve been good reminders to the durability of the genre and, especially, the liberating room they afford actors. Stale as they may have grown in the post-Nora Ephron period, romantic comedies were arguably the most natural vehicle for the likes of Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant, not to mention Julia Roberts,



This image released by Netflix shows DeWanda Wise, from left, Gina Rodriguez and Brittany Snow in a scene from “Someone Great.”

Associated Press

Shirley MacLaine, Hugh Grant and Claudette Colbert. And in today’s movie era, the opportunities for performers to express their natural charisma, without the filter of a superhero costume, aren’t so many. These are much-needed star-making factories. Enter the spirited and starry “Someone Great,” Netflix’s latest addition to the genre. Written and directed by Jennifer Kaytin Robinson (MTV’s “Sweet/Vicious”) and produced by Paul Feig, it stars Gina Rodriguez. A big part of its pleasure is the verve that Rodriguez and her co-stars — particularly DeWanda Wise and Brittany Snow, who play her best friends — bring to the film.

On the telenovela-based CW series “Jane the Virgin,” Rodriguez has already taken a rom-com set-up and expanded it in dynamic ways. “Someone Great” is easily the best big-screen view yet of Rodriguez, a forceful and vibrant actress of proud Puerto Rican heritage. She plays Jenny, a New York aspiring music writer whose nine year relationship with her boyfriend Nate (an excellent Lakeith Stanfield) is ending. The impetus is a new job with Rolling Stone that will take Jenny to San Francisco, a move that Nate doesn’t want to make. Their entire relationship, from meeting to breakup, passes in a two-minute montage of

texts, emails and Instagram posts. It’s a concise if dispiriting way to sum up a life together: a relationship as lived on social media. Taking place in the acutely emotional days after their split, “Someone Great” is about passing through that anguished crucible of heartbreak. Everywhere prompts a flashback: a Vampire Weekend song, a meaningful spot in Washington Square Park. Erin (Wise) and Blair (Snow) come to Jenny’s rescue, joining her for an odyssey around New York (RuPaul, Rosario Dawson, Questlove and Jaboukie Young-White make cameos) that concludes with a concert that Nate is believed to be attending, too. □

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AVENGERS: ENDGAME
ROBERT DOWNEY JR. | CHRIS EVANS

PH	MON-FRI 4:05 4:35 7:50 8:20
	SAT-SUN 12:50 4:05 4:35 7:50 8:20
PH	MON-THU 4:35 6:50 8:20
	FRI 4:35 6:50 8:20 10:30
VIP	SAT 12:50 3:05 4:35 6:50 8:20 10:30
	SUN 12:50 3:05 4:35 6:50 8:20
PBP	MON-FRI 4:55 8:40
	SAT-SUN 1:10 4:55 8:40
PBP	CXC
	MON-SUN 3:45 7:30
PBP	MON-THU 6:30
	FRI 6:30 10:10
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	SUN 2:45 6:30
SPANISH	MON-FRI 4:55 8:40
	SAT-SUN 1:10 4:55 8:40

SOLTERAS INDISPONIBLES
LEO ALDANA | DANIELA ALVARADO

SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-SUN 6:15 | 9:10

THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA
LINDA CARDELLINI | RAYMOND CRUZ

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 4:00 6:15 8:30
	FRI 4:00 6:15 8:30 10:45
VIP	SAT 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30 10:45
	SUN 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30
PBP	MON-THU 5:05 7:20 9:35
	FRI 5:05 7:20 9:35 11:50
VIP	SAT 2:50 5:05 7:20 9:35 11:50
	SUN 2:50 5:05 7:20 9:35
PBP	MON-THU & SUN 8:35
	FRI-SAT 8:35 10:50

SHAZAM!
ZACHARY LEVI | MICHELLE BORTH

PH MON-SUN 9:20

PBP **SPANISH** MON-FRI 5:45

SAT-SUN 2:55 | 5:45

BREAKTHROUGH
CHRISSY METZ | TOPHER GRACE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40

SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40

PBP MON-SUN 9:15

Little
REGINA HALL | ISSA RAE

PBP MON-FRI 4:15 | 6:45

SAT-SUN 1:45 | 4:15 | 6:45

DUMBO
COLIN FARRELL | MICHAEL KEATON

PBP **SPANISH** MON-FRI 3:45

SAT-SUN 1:15 | 3:45

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Britney Spears to fans: ‘All is well’ despite family stress



In this April 12, 2018 file photo, Britney Spears arrives at the 29th annual GLAAD Media Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Britney

Spears says that though her family has been stressed lately, she’s doing OK. The pop star on Tuesday posted a video to her Instagram, telling her fans: “Just checking in with all of you who are concerned about me. All is well. My family has been going through a lot of stress and anxiety lately, so I just needed time to deal. Don’t worry. I’ll be back very soon.”

In January, she said she was putting her career on indef-

inite hiatus for the sake of her father, who is sick. The launch run of her “Britney: Domination” residency in Las Vegas was put on hold until further notice. Earlier this month, Spears said she had decided to focus on self-care as she goes through a rough stretch. In the caption of Tuesday’s video post, Spears wrote that she “wanted to say hi, because things that are being said have just gotten out of control!” □

I robot? Ian McEwan tells android tale in 'Machines Like Me'

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Ian McEwan is fascinated by artificial intelligence. His new novel, "Machines Like Me," features a lifelike android with access to all human knowledge who writes haiku poetry.

In real life, the Booker Prize-winning author is conflicted. He'd be wary of owning a driverless car — "I don't even like cruise control" — and he's grown suspicious of his household digital assistant since the revelation that staff at Amazon listened to recordings of people speaking to their Alexa devices.

"Actual humans transcribing, and some lady singing in the shower being laughed at," he shudders. "I think we're going to unplug it."

The messy relationship between human minds and artificial ones is the focus of "Machines Like Me," published in the U.S. on Tuesday by Doubleday.

Narrator Charlie Friend, a smart but directionless thirtysomething, spends his inheritance on Adam, one of the first "truly viable manufactured human(s) with plausible intelligence and looks."

Adam, Charlie and Charlie's neighbor/girlfriend Miranda form an unorthodox household. They soon confront profound questions: Can a machine feel emo-



In this photo taken on Thursday, April 18, 2019, Booker Prize award winning English novelist and screenwriter Ian Russell McEwan talks to Associated Press about his new novel "Machines Like Me" in London.

tions? Is Adam a lodger, a servant or a highly intelligent household appliance? Does cheating on your partner with a robot count as adultery?

"I wanted the reader to be in Charlie's situation of half the time, at least at first, thinking he's just playing a computer game — an elaborate, rather spooky computer game — but then feeling very upset when Adam goes and has a night of shame with his girlfriend," McEwan said.

"It's really only a betrayal if we regard Adam as a kind of human, and (Charlie) can't help himself but feel

that." McEwan describes the novel as a sort of anti-"Frankenstein." In Mary Shelley's story, a scientist's creation becomes a killer.

"I'm writing somewhat against that grain, wanting to think about, what if we gave our new cousins our best selves, or we tried to?" McEwan said during an interview at his sun-filled London mews house.

In the novel, Adam is a moral paragon. It's the humans who are compromised.

McEwan's ménage à trois unfolds in a divided Britain: roiled by protests, uncertain about its place in Europe and the world.

That sounds a lot like the present, but it's the past — an alternative version of the 1980s.

The novel opens as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher takes Britain to war against Argentina over the Falkland Islands. In real life the U.K. won the war and Thatcher spent a tumultuous decade in office. In McEwan's version, the war is lost and Thatcher faces a crisis that brings a left-wing Labor government to the verge of power.

In McEwan's alternate '80s the internet is long-established and work on artificial intelligence is advanced,

thanks to Alan Turing, a real-life World War II code-breaker and computing pioneer.

After the war, Turing was prosecuted for having sex with a man, forcibly treated with female hormones and died aged 41 in 1954.

McEwan gives Turing the life he deserved. In the novel he lives into old age, honored and revered, and his work has created technological wonders.

It has not cured society's ills, though. The 250-mph (400-kph) bullet trains are grubby and the streets littered with garbage. Mass unemployment fuels anti-immigrant anger, although automation is the bigger culprit.

McEwan said he has often been struck by how quickly new technology becomes mundane. He recalled, a few years ago, seeing a line of people snaking down a street in Manhattan.

"I thought it was maybe some kind of rock concert," he said. "And they said no, people are sleeping out on the pavement to be first with an iPhone 5."

"Where are those 5s now? I think they're in the nation's sock drawers or they are being used by grandchildren. The speed with which something that people are prepared and sleep out on the pavement before becomes two years later just a piece of outmoded junk — that interests me." □

Renee Wahl digs deep on evocative Americana set

By SCOTT STROUD
Associated Press

Renee Wahl and the Sworn Secrets, "Cut to the Bone" (Double R Records)

The first sound of Renee Wahl's voice on her fine new album is enough to set off the comparisons to Rosanne Cash.

The opener is "To the Bone," and the song's first line even includes a black Cadillac, which of course was in the title of one of Cash's best albums.

Wahl's "Cut to the Bone" has more in common with Cash's fiery, passionate earlier work, and yet it sets

itself apart with an intensity all its own.

For all that, though, her voice has the same kind of let-me-tell-you-something urgency that set Cash apart. There's the vivid writing, too, when she describes "the smell of chicken and gasoline" on "Cold Day in Memphis."

But Wahl, an Air Force veteran and physicist who is also a teacher, demonstrates the capacity to dig deep.

There's the edge of anger mixed with warmth and regret, as on the title cut and "From Here to There,"

a song set on a long drive across Texas as she daydreams about a man she knew in Ireland.

"Me Before You" is a cleverly structured ballad with an evocative melody. "In the Field" describes lying in a field where a soldier has died, set against an understated but persistent military drum cadence.

Despite the similarities to Cash, this is an ambitious, fresh contribution to the Americana canon.

The songs are well thought out and finely crafted, and several of them seem likely to endure. □



This cover image released by Double R Records shows "Cut to the Bone," a release by Renee Wahl and the Sworn Secrets.

Associated Press

Greece opens shipwreck sites to divers as underwater museums

By ELENA BECATOROS
Associated Press
STENI VALLA, Greece (AP)

— Near the northern Greek island of Alonissos lies a remarkable ancient shipwreck: the remains of a massive cargo ship that changed archaeologists' understanding of shipbuilding in antiquity.

Now this spectacular find is to become the first ancient shipwreck to be made accessible to the public in Greece, including to recreational divers.

Greece's rich underwater heritage has long been hidden from view, off-limits to all but a select few, mainly archaeologists.

Scuba diving was banned throughout the country except in a few specific locations until 2005, for fear that divers might loot the countless antiquities that still lie scattered on the country's seabed.

Ancient shipwrecks and even many more recent ones are still off-limits.

Now that seems to be gradually changing, with a new project to create underwater museums.

Divers will be able to tour certain shipwrecks and non-divers will experience the sites through virtual reality in information centers on land.

The first of these sites is the Peristera shipwreck, named for the uninhabited Greek island opposite Alonissos where it was discovered in the early 1990s.

The cargo ship was laden with thousands of ampho-



This photo taken on Friday, April 5, 2019 shows the harbor of Steni Valla with the island of Peristera on the background, in Greece.

ras, or vases, probably containing wine, when it sank in the late 5th century B.C.

All that survives is the cargo, the exposed parts of the wooden ship having long since rotted away. But the sight is spectacular.

Thousands of ancient vases, the vast majority intact, lie in layers.

Fish, sponges and other sea creatures have made the amphoras their home, adding color and life to the site. In some places, the cargo towers above divers as they pass along the perimeter of the wreck.

"It is very impressive. Even I, who have been working for years in underwater archaeology, the first time I dived on this wreck I was truly impressed," said Dimitris Kourkoumelis, the lead archaeologist on the proj-

ect preparing the site for visitors.

"It's different to see amphoras ... individually in a museum and different to see them in such concentration."

The wreck still holds mysteries. Only a small part has been excavated, and experts have yet to determine how or why it sank, or what other treasures it might have carried beneath the estimated 4,000 amphoras in its hold.

There are indications a fire had broken out on board, but it's unclear whether that contributed to its sinking.

"Was it a piracy act? Was it overloaded?" said Elpidia Hadjidaki, the first archaeologist to excavate the site. These questions remain unanswered.

Associated Press

The Peristera wreck is the largest ship of its time to have been found and its discovery was of major significance to historians.

"Up to then, we thought that large ships that were carrying 1,500 amphoras and were up to 70 tons, they were built by the Romans in the 1st century B.C.," Hadjidaki explained. "Well, now we have a ship that was not built in the 1st century B.C., it was built in the 5th century B.C., it carried 4,000 amphoras and God knows what else and it's 126 tons."

Hadjidaki said she is thrilled the wreck is being opened to visitors.

"It's fantastic. Twenty-five years ago, I was the first person that proposed that and people were jumping at me, they thought I was

crazy," she said.

"Why should we keep it to ourselves? We have to give knowledge to people."

The first test for guided tours of the wreck, which lies at a depth of about 22-28 meters (72-92 feet), was carried out last weekend with small groups of recreational and professional divers.

A thorough briefing, complete with historical information and the rules of the dive, preceded the short boat ride from the tiny harbor of Steni Valla on Alonissos to the site.

On the wreck itself, explanatory signs have been suspended along the perimeter. The initial feedback has been positive.

"It was an amazing opportunity ... to dive at last on an ancient wreck," said Kostas Menemenoglou, a 39-year-old recreational diver from the central town of Volos. "It was a fantastic experience. It's really like diving into history."

Three other shipwrecks in the Pagasitic Gulf in central Greece are also included in the project, which is part of a European Commission-funded BlueMed program, which plans to expand the project to Italy and Croatia. More test dives will be held this summer and next year, with hopes of fully opening the sites to recreational diving in early 2021.

"Accessible archaeological sites are one of the most interesting projects — not just a Greek project but a worldwide project," said Kourkoumelis, who noted it has taken a long time to get to the point of allowing visitors to access an ancient wreck.

"It took years. And that's logical, because underwater ancient sites and particularly ancient shipwrecks are exposed ... and fragile," he said, noting it was crucial to properly set up the project and the dive conditions, making sure the sites are protected before they can be opened to the public.

"All the conditions must be ensured so that these sites remain safe in the future and for future generations," he added. □



In this photo taken on Sunday, April 7, 2019, divers visit a 5th Century B.C. shipwreck, the first ancient shipwreck to be opened to the public in Greece, including to recreational divers who will be able to visit the wreck itself, near the coast of Peristera, Greece.

Associated Press



In this photo taken on Sunday, April 7, 2019, ancient amphoras lie at the bottom of the sea from a 5th Century B.C. shipwreck, the first ancient shipwreck to be opened to the public in Greece, including to recreational divers who will be able to visit the wreck itself, near the coast of Peristera, Greece.

Associated Press